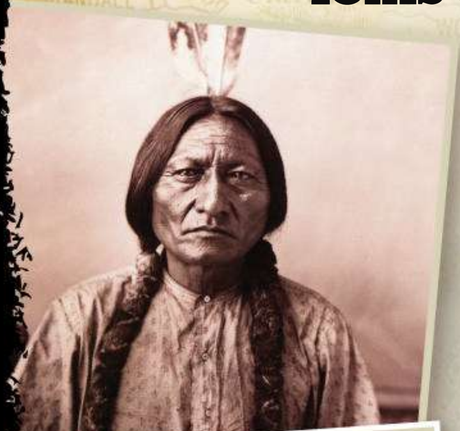
NEW

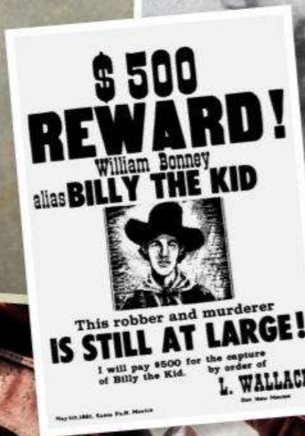
FROM THE MAKERS OF ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Legends of the WILD WEST

Get ready to raise hell with some of the craziest folks ever to stalk the American Frontier

MURDER in the WICKED WEST





$ 500
REWARD!
William Bonney
alias BILLY THE KID

This robber and murderer
IS STILL AT LARGE!

I will pay $500 for the capture of Billy the Kid.

by order of
L. WALLACE

Digital Edition

FOURTH EDITION

BUFFALO BILL ★ CRAZY HORSE ★ CALAMITY JANE ★ BILLY THE KID

WELCOME to the WILD WEST

Howdy there, stranger. I'm guessin' you ain't from round these parts. I'd keep a hand on that there revolver of yours if I were you. This ain't a friendly part of town. See Buckeyed Bob there, behind the bar? He's had four shootin's in here in the last week alone. Some fool callin' himself the Kid runnin' his mouth then runnin' his gun. I don't know what brings you this way, but whether it's fortune or fame, tread careful.

First thing to remember is you got the Natives to contend with. This was their land first, and they don't take kindly to outsiders strollin' into their reserves. Best you learn a bit about their ways before you go too much further.

If you can keep from raising sand with them you might just catch the likes of Wild Bill or Jesse James passing through. I wouldn't look either in the eye. Same goes for Crazy Horse. And as for the women – well, they're half as crazy but twice as lethal. And don't go near that Bender place, ya hear?

If you're plannin' on stickin' around then you might get to see old Buffalo Bill's show, and there's talk of a gold rush coming.

Well, I won't keep you. Me and Sundance got some business to attend to. Hey, Buckeye! Another snort for my friend here when you're ready! Take care out there, stranger.

FUTURE

Legends of the WILD WEST

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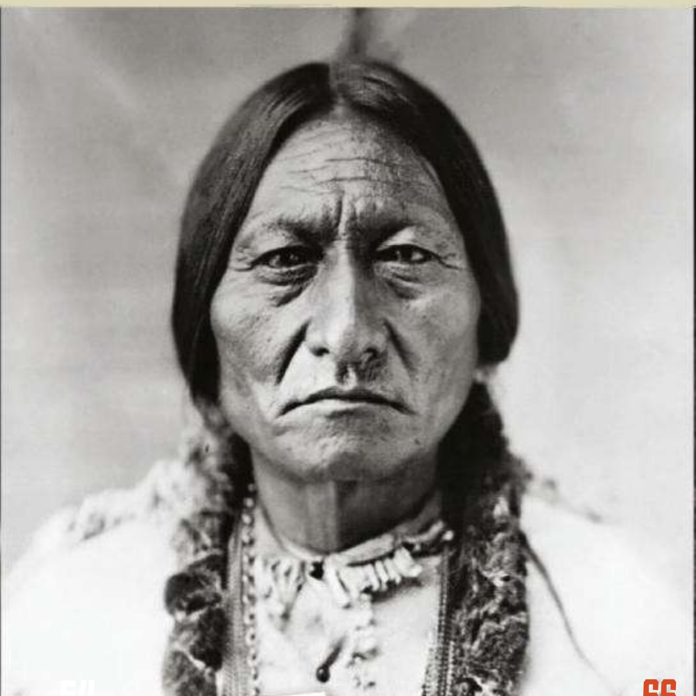

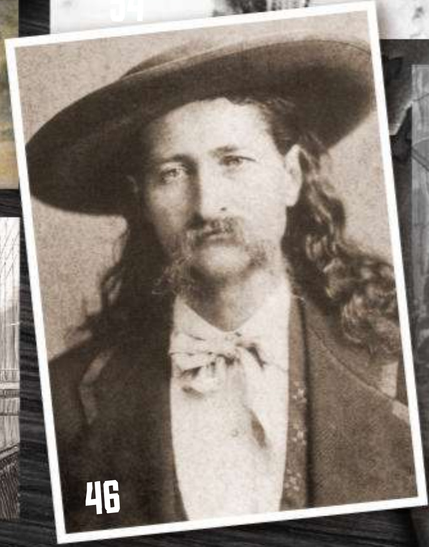

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SALOON
SALOON
ARS.

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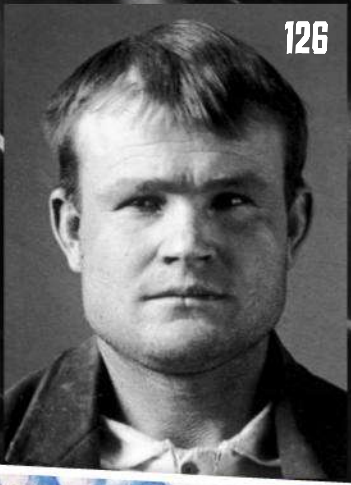

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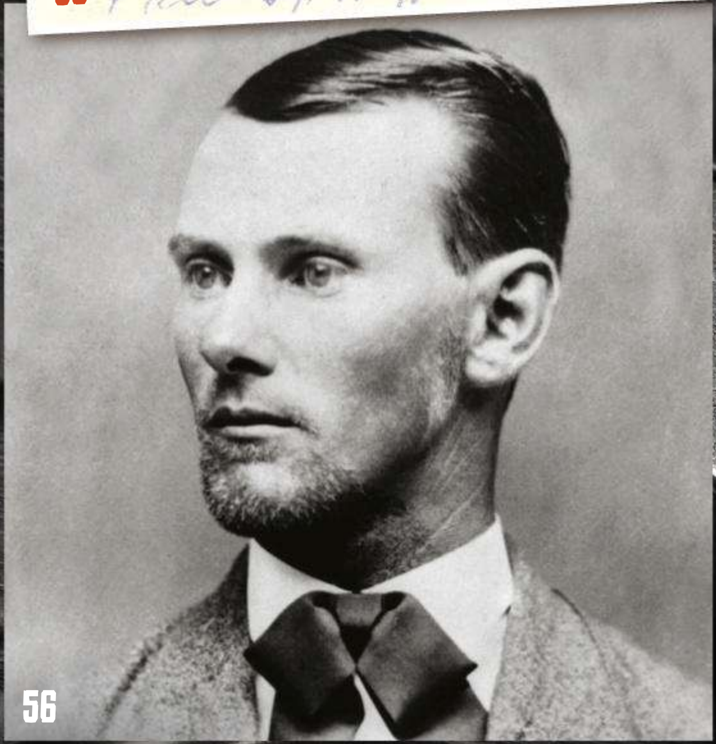

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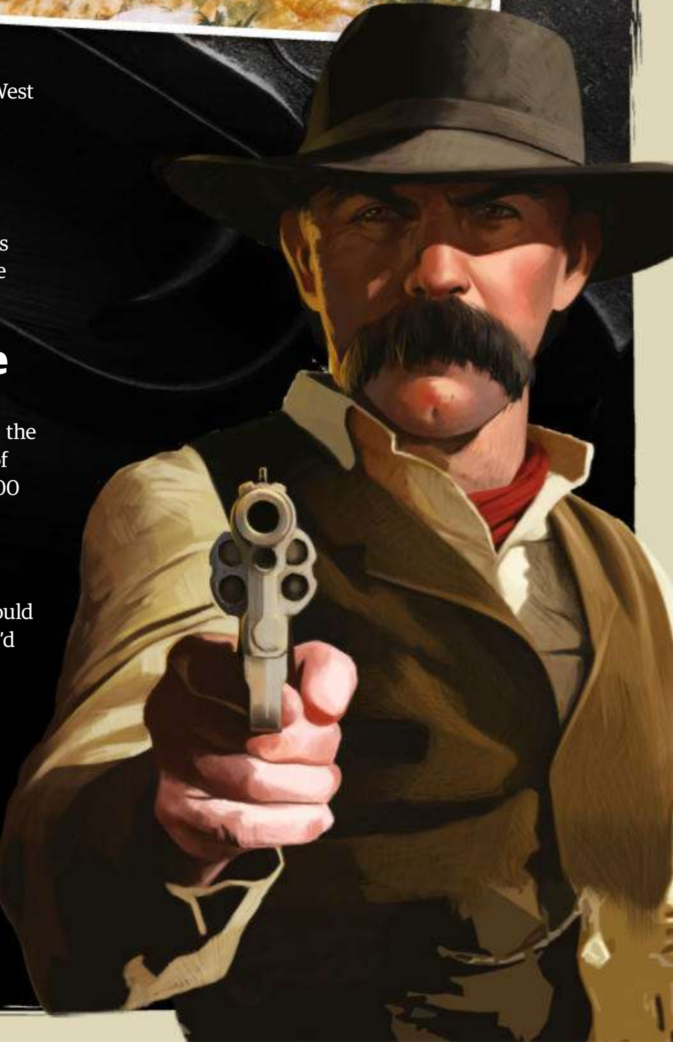


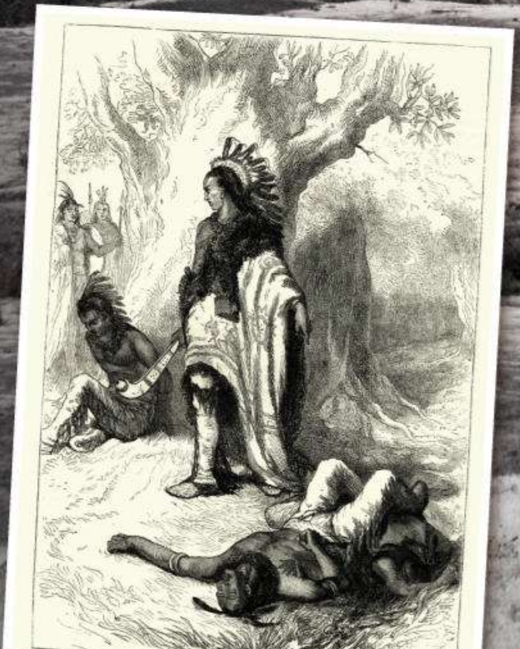
THE FIRST AMERICANS

BY BEE GINGER

An insight into the lives of America's first inhabitants

For centuries, archaeologists were convinced that the Clovis people, known for their distinctive appearance and Clovis point spearheads, were the first people to set foot on what we now call America. Fresh findings, however, have established that the Americas were reached many years prior by the Native Americans, and it was towards the end of the Ice Age that people from what we now know as India made a gruelling journey all the way from Asia to Alaska via Beringia, over what then was still a land bridge, embarking on an exploration of the west coast of Northern America covering both continents and journeying down to the southern tip of South America. Although we don't precisely know when the first Native Americans arrived in North America, it's estimated to be at least 15,000 years ago, with many experts believing it to be as long as 40,000 years ago.

With greater advancements in technology and the discovery of key artefacts, archaeologists have been able to learn more about the Native Americans using written accounts of the first Europeans to arrive in America, but it is the stories



An outdated term for Native Americans is 'Red Indian'. This referred to a tribe called the Beothuks. Red was their tribal colour, which they used to paint their faces and bodies

© Getty

Native Americans have a great respect for the land on which they live passed down within the tribes that add depth and fascination. Despite there being little written record of their histories, the Native Americans used oral tradition, kinship and sacred rituals to keep not only themselves but their history alive.

Being the first settlers, these hardy arrivals spoke in many different languages, with an estimated 600 dialects, and throughout what we now know to be the United States of America there were many hundreds of tribes. Some we have heard of from books and films, such as the Navajo, Apache and Cherokee, but there were many more. Smaller tribes often made up parts of larger communities, and today there are over 570 recognised tribes in the United States alone, although there could well be many more. A recent census recorded there to be approximately 1 million Native Americans living in Canada today and 2 million across the United States.

Geographers and anthropologists have divided the Native Americans into rough groupings according to their characteristics and similar habits. North America alone can be divided into ten separate cultural areas: the Arctic, Subarctic, Northeast, Southwest, Plains, Southeast, Great Basin, California, the Northwest Coast, and the Plateau. With such a vast and varying land to discover, tribes were incredibly diverse in the way in which they existed. The population of the Arctic, for example, was comparatively scattered and small, with inhabitants of this northern region being largely nomadic. These Inuits followed game, polar bears and seals during their migration, whereas in contrast the settlers in the southern part of the region, the Aleuts, were less transient, choosing instead to reside in small shoreline fishing villages. Both tribes used otter and seal skin for waterproof clothing as well as open kayak-like fishing boats and dog-led sleds for hunting and transportation.

The Mohawk hairstyle is named after the Mohawk people, who dwelt in the northeast of North America. Mohawk means 'man-eater'

Life in each region differed greatly, with Subarctic groups in particular sticking closely together. Their homes were easy-to-transport tents and lean-tos, and when the weather became too cold, they burrowed underground in dugouts to sleep. The Northwest was home to numerous farming and fishing villages where crops of beans, corn and vegetables were grown.

In contrast, life in the Southeast, with its humidity, provided an excellent and fertile region for agriculture. Small hamlet-like market villages were built and a vast range of staple crops were grown, including squash, sunflower and even tobacco.

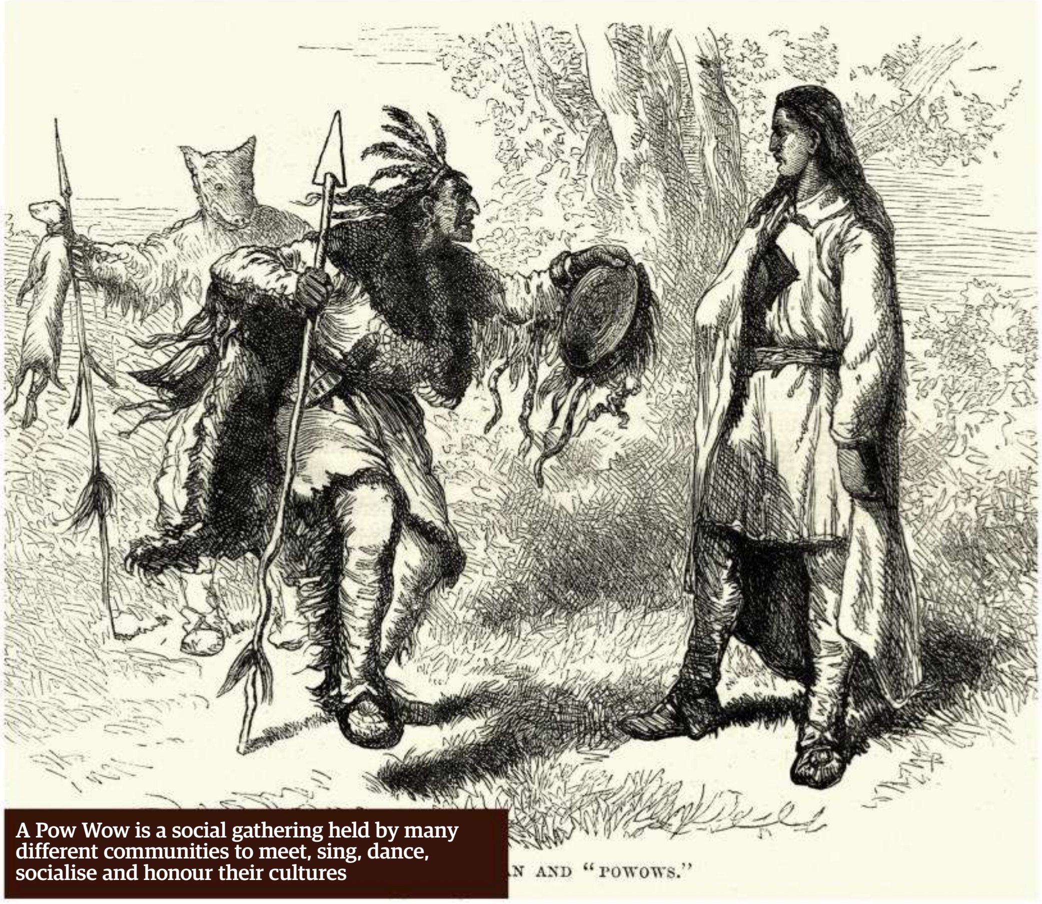
This area was home to what is often called the Five Civilised Tribes: the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole. Farmers and hunters resided predominantly on the Plains. These tribes, including the Blackfeet, Cheyenne and Crow, would follow buffalo herds, sleeping under the stars beneath the cover of collapsible bison-skin tepees.

Settlements in the vast desert region of the Southwest were more permanent, with farming tribes like the Yuma and Zuni building their homes using adobe and stone. These structures became known as pueblos, many of which were built on top of another to create multistorey dwellings. At the village centre would be a Kivas, a pit house constructed for ceremonies. More familiar tribes, like the Navajo and Apache, also resided in the Southwest, however, they chose a more vagrant lifestyle, which included raiding neighbouring tribes' crops and hunting for their survival. Their homes were called Hogans and were assembled from bark and mud. These were rounded in shape and built facing eastwards towards the rising Sun. Similarly, the inhabitants of the Great Basin were also nomadic, travelling through barren wastelands and salt flats, foraging and feasting on snakes, lizards and other small mammals. Their lodgings were compact and moveable, made from saplings, tree poles, leaves and brush.

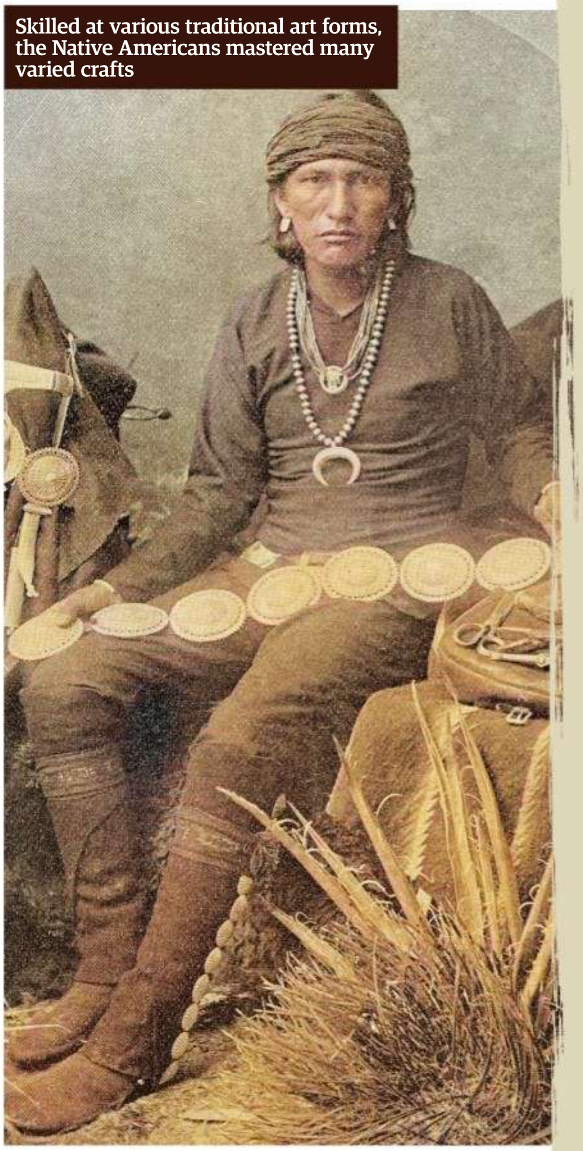
It was California that was home to the majority of the tribes; estimates show at one time approximately 100 different clans resided there. Bands of hunter-gatherers, known as tribelets, united together to hunt and trade as little agriculture was practised in the area. Yet the Northwest coast was the place to be, with natural resources at their most abundant, and its mild climate made it an area ripe with food, from shellfish to salmon, otters, seals and even whales.

INDIAN TERRITORY
CHICKASAW NATION
CREEK COUNTRY
CHOCTAW NATION
OSAGES
CHEROKEE
KIOWAS
COMANCHES
APACHES
WICHITAS
SEMINOLES
Camp Supply
Fort Sill
Fort Cobb
Tulsa

A 19th-century map of Indian Territory


N AND "POWOWS."

A Pow Wow is a social gathering held by many different communities to meet, sing, dance, socialise and honour their cultures



Skilled at various traditional art forms, the Native Americans mastered many varied crafts

"CALIFORNIA WAS HOME TO THE MAJORITY OF THE TRIBES; ESTIMATES SHOW AT ONE TIME APPROXIMATELY 100 DIFFERENT CLANS RESIDED THERE"

* * *

Permanent villages were constructed, with buildings capable of housing hundreds of people. Class divisions were recognised here, with a person's status dependent on the strength of his relationship with the Chief.

Last were the villages of the Plateau, with numerous peaceful settlements built alongside the banks of the river. Trout and salmon were fished and roots, nuts and berries foraged. Tribes lived in longhouses made from tulle mats, also known as bulrush, which grows in marshy areas. Today, many descendants of the original Native Americans reside on reservations. These areas of land have been specifically set aside to protect their culture and heritage, although many choose to live outside the reservations as well.

For millennia, the Native Americans successfully governed themselves through kinship systems such as societies and clans, tribal laws, religious customs and, of course, cultural traditions. One of the most important beliefs to date remains the practice of kinship, and despite tribes nowadays having differing beliefs and practices, it is these ties that determine what gets passed

When the first snows fell, youngsters were encouraged to roll in it. This ritual prepared their minds, bodies and spirits for the freezing months ahead

© Getty

Totem poles are large tree trunks, ornately carved with colourful symbols representing a tribe's various beliefs and faiths. Each symbol varies in spiritual meaning and significance

Nature is crucially important to the Native American people. They revere the Earth and all the creatures that it hosts

down from generation to generation. Passing on important teachings and wisdom was imperative, as were practical matters such as succession in leadership roles and land ownership. Kinship and strong relationships are essential for overall health, providing structure in a person's life. Knowing your place on the Earth and within your family and community is essential. It is therefore important to focus on family, tribe, animals, the land and also yourself.

A tribe's religious leader was known as the Medicine Man, or Shaman. It was their job to lead a sacrifice, give healing, guide souls and honour and teach tribal traditions by means of songs and storytelling. Shamans tended to be men, but interestingly, patriarchy was not the prevailing hierarchical model, with many tribes having a matriarch.

Each tribe had their own significant views on the role of women in battle, counsel and leadership. In many tribes women were not subservient to the menfolk but took on an equal amount of responsibility within the tribe. One such belief and tradition was animism, which is a commonly shared belief among many tribes. This spiritual belief is that every living object, be it inanimate or natural, has a spiritual essence or soul. This can include objects, rivers, animals, plants, weather systems and places.

With religion so closely related to the natural world, every part of the landscape was elevated with supernatural meaning and sacred presences imbued on natural objects. When used in ceremonies, these objects were meant not only for individual prosperity but also for that of the whole collective community. These ceremonies and rituals gave strength and helped overpower and navigate life's hurdles. They also marked happy events and important life milestones, including marriage, puberty and death. Ceremonies and practices have adapted over the years to meet the needs of the tribe, and despite all the tribes having very different rituals, there are several practices and traditions that cross the boundaries and hold great meaning to the Native American community. Believing rituals and practices form a seamless yet integral part of their very being, these beliefs were greatly influenced by their methods by which to obtain food, be that growing, hunting or fishing.

People of the Plains engaged in the Sun Dance, which involved piercing their chests with skewers and being tied to a cottonwood tree

With all tribes regarding Mother Earth as sacred, many celebrations and rituals had her as their predominant focus. Drum circles were common across all tribes, uniting mind, body and, most importantly, spirit. The rhythmic drum beat represented Mother Earth's heartbeat. The drum itself was considered sacred and therefore treated with great respect. And with music believed to be the language of the spirits, both song and dance remain hugely important to the Native American culture. Music is not just saved for religious rituals but is integral to everyday life.

Many gods were observed by the Native Americans, with the Sun reigning supreme as she is imperative for growth and warmth. Rain goes hand in hand, along with many other elements in nature. Dreams were also incredibly important, with the majority of tribes considering the revelations that come to them in their sleep to be messages from the gods. The Apache tribes belief centred on a supernatural power that embodied itself in almost every aspect of their lives. This power is said to present itself through visionary experiences. The Apache proclaimed four as their sacred number, therefore prayers and songs took place in quartets over four consecutive nights. Festivals and ceremonies were integral to the culture, all closely linked to beliefs and religion.

It was commonplace to hold ceremonies and Pow Wows not only to worship but also to pacify spirits with dancing, singing and chanting. The Intuits, in particular, had many fascinating gods they worshipped: Pinga, goddess of the hunt, medicine and fertility; Nanook, who was master of the bears; and Matshishkapeu, the spirit of the anus – one god you definitely didn't want to upset!

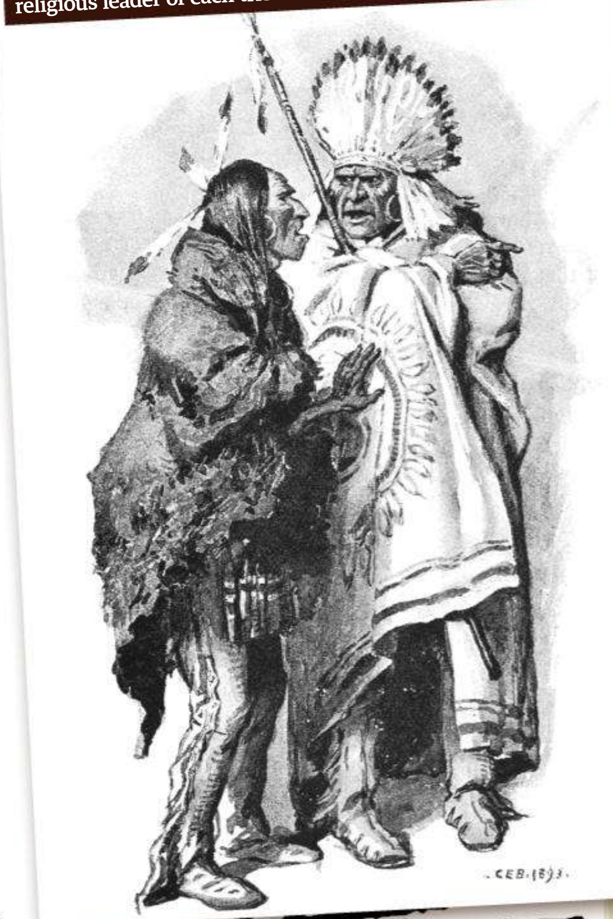
Originally, Pow Wows were a way of coming together to celebrate success in battle or hunting. They are still observed today and are a great opportunity to reconnect to culture and shared tradition, with drum music and dance playing a huge role in the ceremonies.

Dance featured throughout many rituals. The stomp dance was one of the most common among Eastern Woodland and Southeastern tribes. The beloved dance took place at the height of crop season and was practised around an open fire, which represented the light of the Sun. This was as symbolic as it was sacred and considered to be life-giving. The name comes from the pattern of the movements, which was a stomp followed by a shuffle. Dancers moved together in an anticlockwise formation in a circle, alternating with men and women moving together in unison. The dance united people of all ages within both families and the community. Ceremonial regalia unique to each dancer was worn.

Outfits reflected both culture and tribe, with unique headdresses made from porcupine roaches or feathers and breastplates made from bone or shell. Everyday clothing was more demure and practical and made from the hides of animals that had been hunted for food. In Alaska, the Inuit tribes would use caribou or seal skin to retain warmth, whereas on the Plains buffalo and bison skins were the height of fashion. The Apache and Navajo tribes learned how to make their clothing through weaving thread from livestock and plants. All made by hand, the clothing and blankets would be adorned with decorative feathers, quills and fur, and in coastal regions shells. Later, glass beads from Europe became commonplace.

It was the Europeans who brought animals such as pigs, sheep and cattle to America. Horses were reintroduced by the Europeans as they had previously been hunted to extinction by early settlers. These magnificent beasts had an incredible impact on the Native Americans, who learned to use them for hunting, warfare and travel.

However, it was not just livestock that the Europeans transported with them across the Atlantic Ocean – they also carried diseases to which the Natives had no resistance. Millions died in the first few years of European settlement in the New World, resulting in an enormous decline in the Native American population. Sadly, these unfortunate people would not be the last victims of these new settlers. The arrival of the Europeans would change life for the Native Americans forever.



The Shaman, or Medicine Man, was a respected religious leader of each tribe

The oral tradition of the winter count

It is history, culture and language that truly define a community. However, those of the Native Americans were often only spoken of and not written down

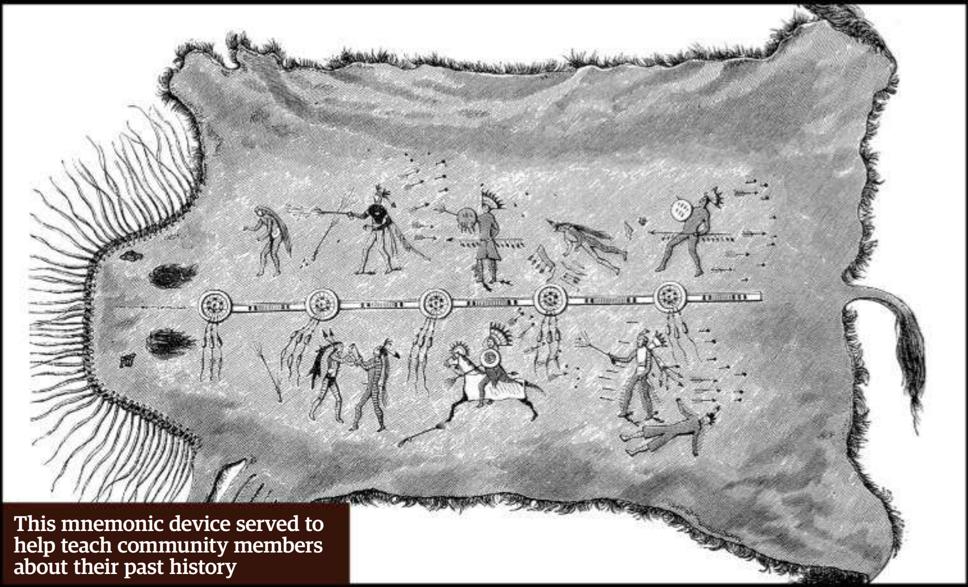
Much of the Native American history we have learned has been from the written accounts of the first Europeans to arrive in America. Important information and history within the tribes, however, was passed from one generation to another through a method that is called oral tradition.

In some cases, Native communities would use creative tools in order to help themselves remember and record histories and keep track of the passage of years. Communities of the Northern Great Plains in particular developed a tool called the 'winter count'. Annual cycles were measured from each year's first snowfall through to the following year's first snowfall.

This could mean that, on occasion, a whole year would be known as winter. Towards the end of that year, the elders from each community would congregate and discuss all the important things that had transpired since the first snowfall. In this meeting, they would choose one memorable event to serve as a historical reminder for that entire year, and the year would be named after it.

One person in the community would then be given the important task of creating a design to paint onto a buffalo hide as a symbol and reminder of that event. Each year, a new pictograph would be added, enhancing the historical record. The hide became known as the winter count, a collection of symbols documenting a community's history.

Keeping the animal hide safe was a hugely important job, often passed from father to son. If the hide's images became worn or faded then a new copy would be made in order to preserve the information. To add to this already huge responsibility, the keeper of the hide was also the community's storyteller, with the additional duty to pass on and preserve the tribe's history by oral tradition.



This mnemonic device served to help teach community members about their past history

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DISCOVERING the AMERICAN WEST

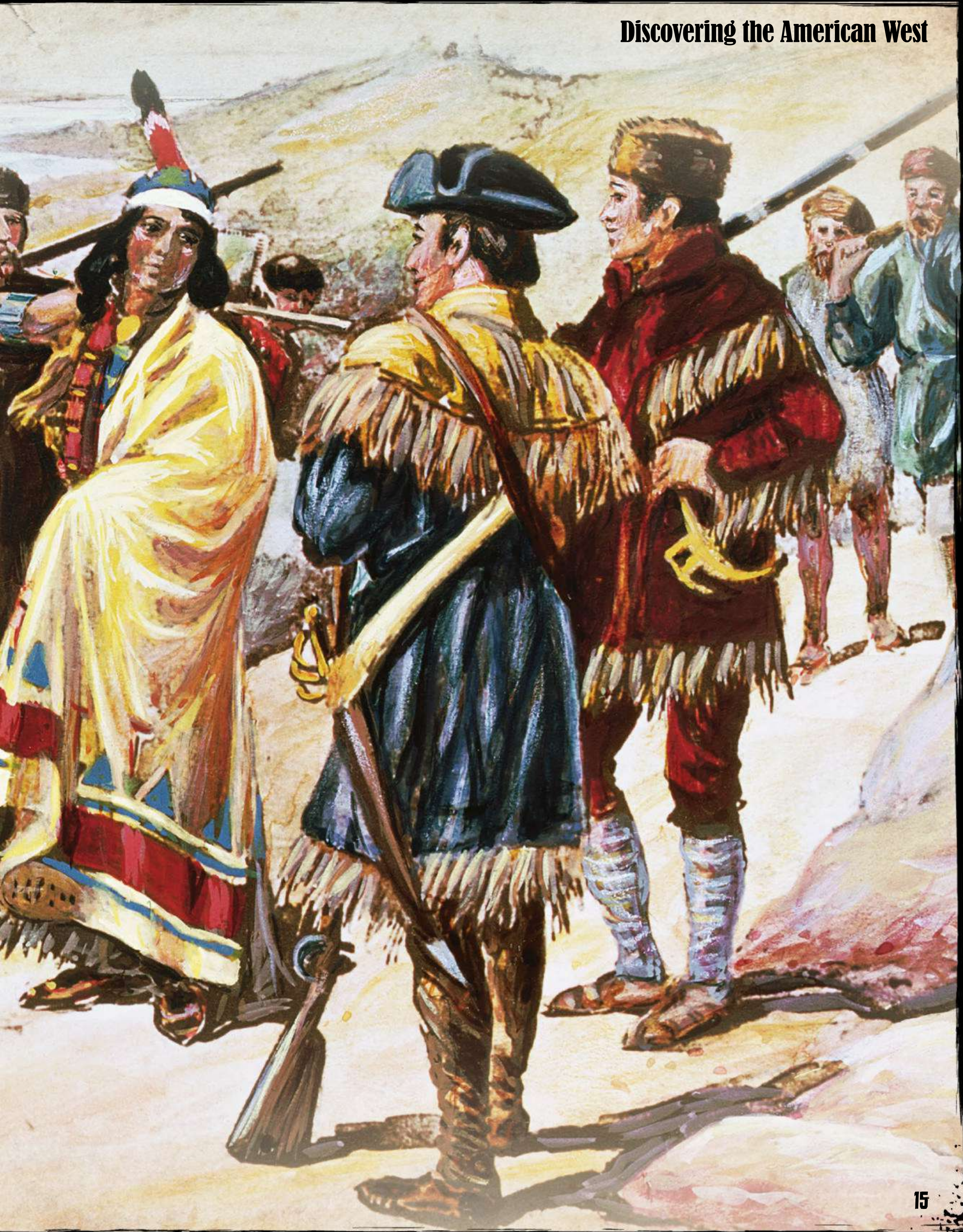
They ventured across the country through unknown terrain, facing danger and discovery at every turn. This is the journey of Lewis and Clark

When the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, the founding fathers had grand ideals of what the vast continent had to offer, but little notion of its sprawling landscape and what lived there. It was an incredible wilderness full of possibilities and dangers from which Meriwether Lewis and William Clark had no guarantee of a safe return.

The shape of the young American nation would change drastically when Napoleon Bonaparte offered to sell the French territory of Louisiana, a colossal area of 827,996 square miles that would double the size of the U.S. President Thomas Jefferson worked quickly to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase for $15 million in 1803, and he knew exactly what he wanted from it. He was desperate to know if there was a Northwest Passage that would connect the Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean, thus greatly increasing trading possibilities, and he had secretly asked Congress to approve and fund the expedition six months before the purchase was officially announced.

The president already had the perfect leader for the expedition. Jefferson's secretary, Meriwether Lewis, was a military veteran in excellent physical shape with a keen interest in the study of wildlife, and his loyalty and dedication were unquestionable. Lewis immediately began to prepare, taking lessons in navigation and absorbing every piece of available information about the geography and people of the region. However, even with all his study, he knew there would be myriad surprises ahead.

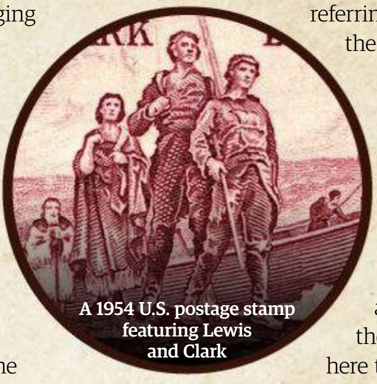
Lewis invited his former commanding officer, William Clark, to join him as co-captain, a move that partly stemmed from the diplomatic aspect of the voyage. They would be the ones to convey to the many Native American tribes on their way westward that they were now living under new



masters – a difficult conversation they hoped would be smoothed over with gifts, including a specially minted coin and some demonstrations of superior firepower. Clark's experience as a soldier and frontiersman combined with Lewis' strong leadership and diplomacy made them the perfect match, and he readily agreed.

Lewis sailed a newly constructed narrowboat from Pittsburgh down the Ohio River, and he met with Clark near Louisville, Kentucky, before setting up their winter training camp on Wood River. There would be 33 core members of the Corps of Discovery, which would finally set out on 14 May 1804 on the Missouri River.

The voyage did not get off to the best start. Discipline was occasionally poor, and on 17 May three men were court-martialled for being absent without leave. Meanwhile, Lewis was given his own warning on 23 May when he fell six metres from a cliff before managing to stop his fall with his knife, just barely saving his own life. There was no margin for error, and the brooding, solitary Lewis was reminded that wandering alone was a dangerous habit. Of course, that would not stop him.

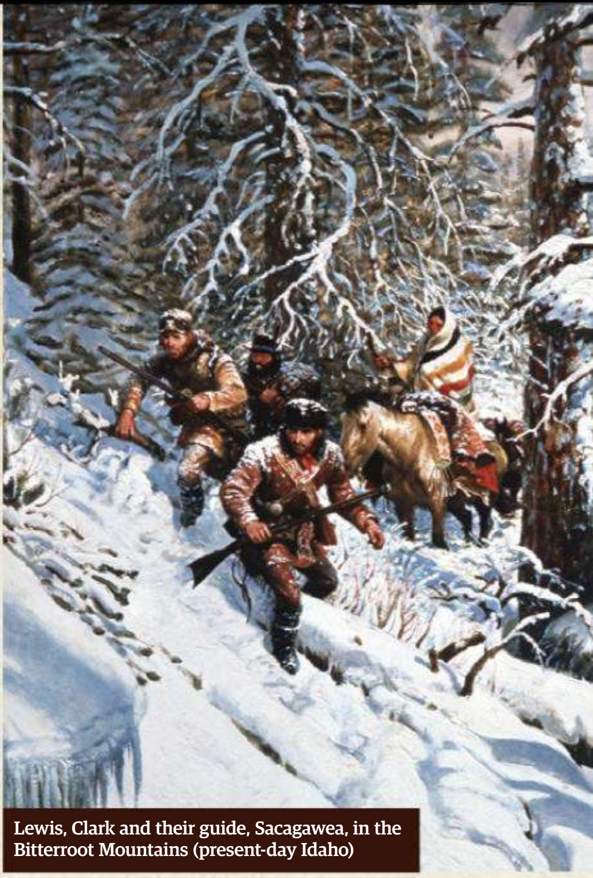

A 1954 U.S. postage stamp featuring Lewis and Clark

The weather was fine but it was hard going, with the fierce Missouri River frequently needing to be cleared to allow the boats free passage and mosquitoes, ticks and illness proving to be a growing problem. It was during this summer that the expedition suffered its only fatality when Sergeant Charles Floyd died of appendicitis. However, Lewis' journeys into the woods provided them with an abundance of new discoveries. A meeting with the Oto and Missouri Native Americans on 3 August went very well, with speeches and exchanges of gifts getting the reception Lewis and Clark had hoped for.

Another successful meeting was held on 30 August, this time with the Yankton Sioux, and the Corps of Discovery entered the Great Plains in early September. It was here that the natural history aspect of the mission really began, as never-before-seen animals roamed. Beasts that seem archetypally American today (elk, bison, coyotes and antelope, for example) were a new discovery to these awe-struck men from the east. But the animals weren't the only ones who called this land home, and the expedition was about to be reminded that, to some, they were trespassing.

Although every encounter with Native American tribes had been peaceful so far, tensions quickly escalated when they met the Teton Sioux (now known as the Lakota Sioux) near what is now South Dakota in September. The travellers had been warned that this tribe could be unfriendly, and it seemed that conflict was inevitable following a series of difficult meetings and demands for one of their boats. Crisis was averted thanks to the intervention of their chief, Black Buffalo, although Clark's diaries show that all was not forgiven, referring to them as, "vile miscreants of the savage race".

They travelled on northwards, reaching the Mandan settlements (a heavily populated area with more people calling it home than Washington, D.C., at the time) at the end of October. Quickly, they began work on their winter camp, Fort Mandan, as the cold weather bit harder than the men had ever experienced. It was here that they made one of the most important decisions of their voyage. They hired the French-Canadian Toussaint Charbonneau, a fur trader, and his 16-year-old Shoshone wife Sacagawea as interpreters. Lewis and Clark were heading to the mountains, and although they had no idea quite how colossal the range was, they knew they would need horses. Native speakers would be invaluable for trade as well as safe passage. Sacagawea gave birth to her son, Jean Baptiste (nicknamed 'Pomp' by Clark), during the winter, and many credit this woman and her child accompanying the travellers with being the reason they were treated so hospitably by the tribes they met on the rest of the journey.


Lewis, Clark and their guide, Sacagawea, in the Bitterroot Mountains (present-day Idaho)

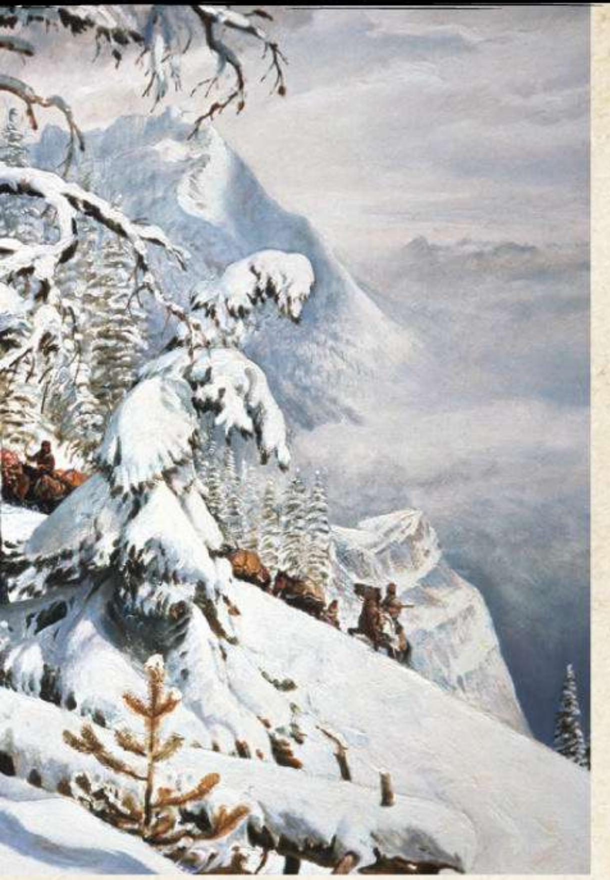
Having sent a small group back to St Louis with samples of their findings, the Corps of Discovery set out again on 7 April. They made excellent time through unexplored country, and it became clear that bringing Sacagawea was a wise decision indeed. Not only did she help them to forage, showing them what was edible and what wasn't, she also had the presence of mind to rescue important papers when a boat capsized. Then, at the start of June, everything nearly fell apart.

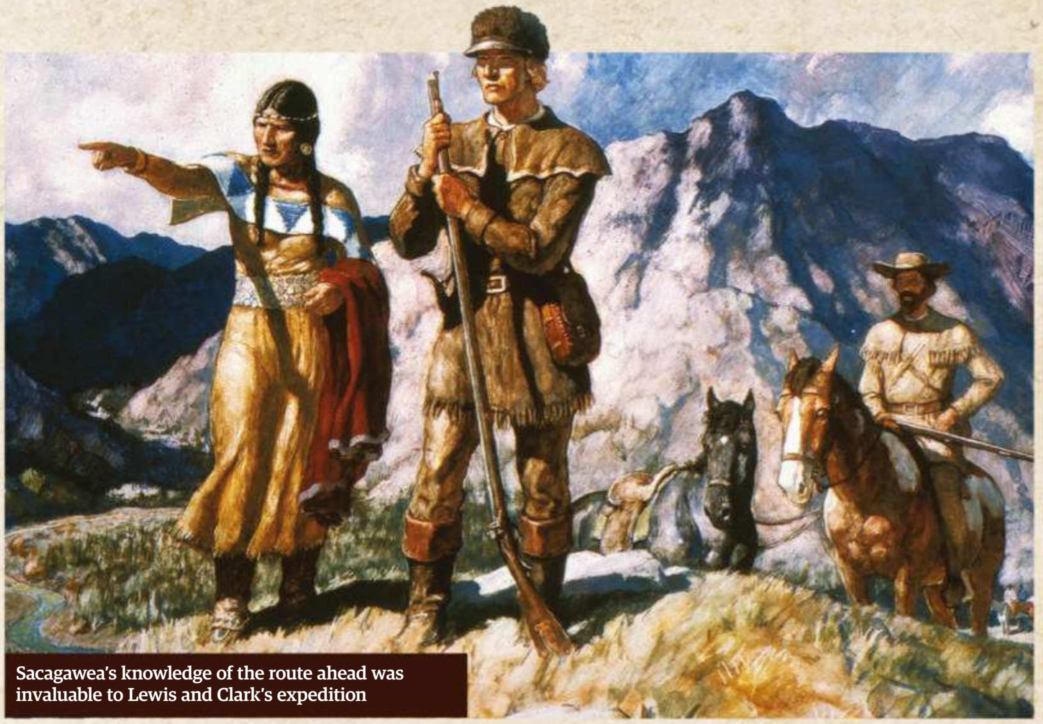
They had reached a fork in the Missouri River, and Lewis and Clark had to make a choice. If they chose poorly, they would be taken completely off course, and it was an incredible relief when they reached the waterfalls they had been told they would find if they were on the right track. However, the right track was not an easy path to take, and the Great Falls were another colossal challenge. There was a constant threat from bears and rattlesnakes, and several crewmembers fell ill.

They would have to go the long way around, 18 miles over difficult terrain, carrying everything that they needed. There was no way back. Incredibly, the crew pulled together and accomplished this amazing feat. It's a testament to the spirit of these men, their awareness of the importance of their mission and the leadership of Lewis and Clark that the only thing lost on this brutal detour was time and the dream of Lewis' iron-framed boat, which simply did not work.

Time, of course, was of the essence. Despite making the right choice at a second set of forks, winter was coming and there were still mountains to climb. They needed to reach the Shoshone tribe and trade for horses if they were to have any hope of reaching their goal, and as they grew closer, Sacagawea helped to navigate through the territory of her youth. However, finding the tribe proved to be difficult, and Lewis and a scout broke off from

Lewis and Clark's journey westward would lead them along the Missouri River





Sacagawea's knowledge of the route ahead was invaluable to Lewis and Clark's expedition

> "THEY HAD REACHED A FORK IN THE MISSOURI RIVER, AND LEWIS AND CLARK HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE. IF THEY CHOSE POORLY, THEY WOULD BE TAKEN COMPLETELY OFF COURSE"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

the group while Clark continued with the rest of the party up the river. Another crushing blow was delivered when Lewis saw the full extent of the mountains they would have to cross. There was no Northwest Passage through the Rocky Mountains.

Finally, they found the Shoshone, who had never seen anyone like these strangers before. Sacagawea acted as an interpreter, and, while speaking, realised that the tribe's chief, Cameahwait, was her brother. This amazing stroke of luck secured the horses needed for their mountain crossing after two weeks resting at the Shoshone camp.

In September they began their mountain crossing at the Bitterroot Range with a Shoshone guide named Old Toby. The weather was against them, Toby lost his way for a while, and the group faced the very real possibility of starvation over two agonising weeks. They finally found their way to the settlement of the Nez Perce on 23 September, who decided to spare the lives of these wretched, starving travellers. In fact, they were incredibly hospitable, sheltering them for two weeks and even teaching them a new way to build canoes. Their first downstream journey may have seemed like a blessed relief, but the rapids were fantastically dangerous, and they were watched with great interest as they made their way down the perilous waters. Once again, they overcame the odds.

On 7 November, Clark was convinced that he could see the Pacific, writing, "Ocean in view! O! The Joy... This great Pacific Ocean which we have been so long anxious to see. And the roaring or noise made by the waves breaking on the rocky shores (as I suppose) may be heard distinctly." He was sadly mistaken. They were 20 miles away, and it would take more than a week in bad weather to reach Cape Disappointment on 18 November. Clark wrote that the, "...men appear much satisfied with their trip, beholding with astonishment the high waves dashing against the rocks and this immense ocean". They had reached the Pacific; their mission was accomplished.

Lewis and Clark decided to take a vote on where to build their winter camp, which is believed to be the first time in recorded U.S. history that a slave (York) and a woman (Sacagawea) were allowed to vote. The winter was tough, but in March they set out to return, using Clark's updated map. Their journey home may have been shorter (just six months) but it had its own dangers, including a violent encounter with Blackfeet Indians that resulted in two killings. They finally arrived in St Louis on 23 September 1806, almost two and a half years after setting off.

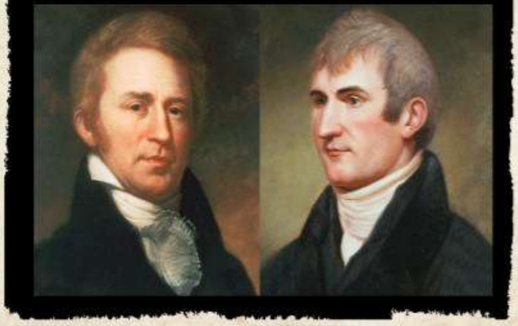
Lewis, Clark and the Corps of Discovery had gone where no white man had gone before. The discoveries they had made, from plant life to animals (grizzly bears, bison, bighorns, wolves and more) to the Native American tribes they met, helped to bring a greater understanding of the nation to Washington and thereby changed the shape of the burgeoning United States of America.

Life after the voyage

What became of the intrepid pair once they returned

Lewis and Clark were hailed as national heroes, and President Thomas Jefferson was eager to show how pleased he was, giving both men political appointments. However, in the case of Lewis, these new honours did not help him to find any peace. He struggled with his duties as governor of Louisiana and frequently gave in to his dark moods and burgeoning alcoholism. This ended in tragedy when, on his way to Washington on 12 October 1809, Lewis shot himself.

Clark's life makes for much happier reading. He worked as an agent for Indian affairs and was married in 1808 before becoming the governor of the Missouri Territory for ten years. Despite his harsh words for the Lakota Sioux after their nearly violent encounter, Clark became renowned for his fair treatment of Native Americans (with some accusing him of being too sympathetic). He also cared for the child of Sacagawea after she and Toussaint left young Jean Baptiste (the baby Clark had called Pomp) in his care. He continued to raise Jean Baptiste after Sacagawea's death in 1812, and the young man would later travel to Europe and the German court.



ON the TRAIL

Track the intrepid explorers' journey across Louisiana Territory

01. Camp Wood *14 May 1804*

After taking the river down from Pittsburgh and meeting Clark at Louisville, this is where they begin preparing for the expedition. Supplies are gathered, men are trained, and the importance of the voyage is impressed upon everyone. Some disciplining of the men is required before they set out.

02. Lakota Sioux *25 September 1804*

Although they have experienced several peaceful encounters with Native American tribes, the Corps of Discovery has a fraught encounter with the Lakota Sioux on the river near what is now Pierre, South Dakota. Without the interference of the tribe's chief, this could have been the end for everyone.

03. Fort Mandan *October 1804 – April 1805*

The travellers arrive at the Mandan-Hidatsa settlement and make preparations for their winter camp, to be named Fort Mandan. Lewis and Clark arrange for many of their discoveries and journals to be sent back to St Louis, and Sacagawea joins the expedition.

04. The unknown fork *1 June 1805*

The expedition reaches another crucial decision when they find an unexpected fork in the Missouri. It's a gamble to choose the right direction, but they know that they have made the correct choice when they see the Great Falls.

05. Great Falls *13 June 1805*

They had been told about a great waterfall, but having been confronted with the five cascades of the Great Falls, Lewis and Clark realise that going around over ground will be a long, arduous and backbreaking process. However, there is at least plenty of game to hunt.

06. Three Forks *22 July 1805*

The Three Forks of the Missouri are uncharted when the expedition reaches this crucial point. It is near the end of July and they know that if they end up taking the wrong fork crossing the mountains will become increasingly perilous.

07. Meeting the Shoshone *17 August 1805*

Sacagawea is finally reunited with her people when the extensive search for the Shoshone ends. Lewis and Clark need her to negotiate for horses, and they have an unexpected stroke of luck when Sacagawea realises that the chief is her brother.

08. Bitterroot Mountains *11-23 September 1805*

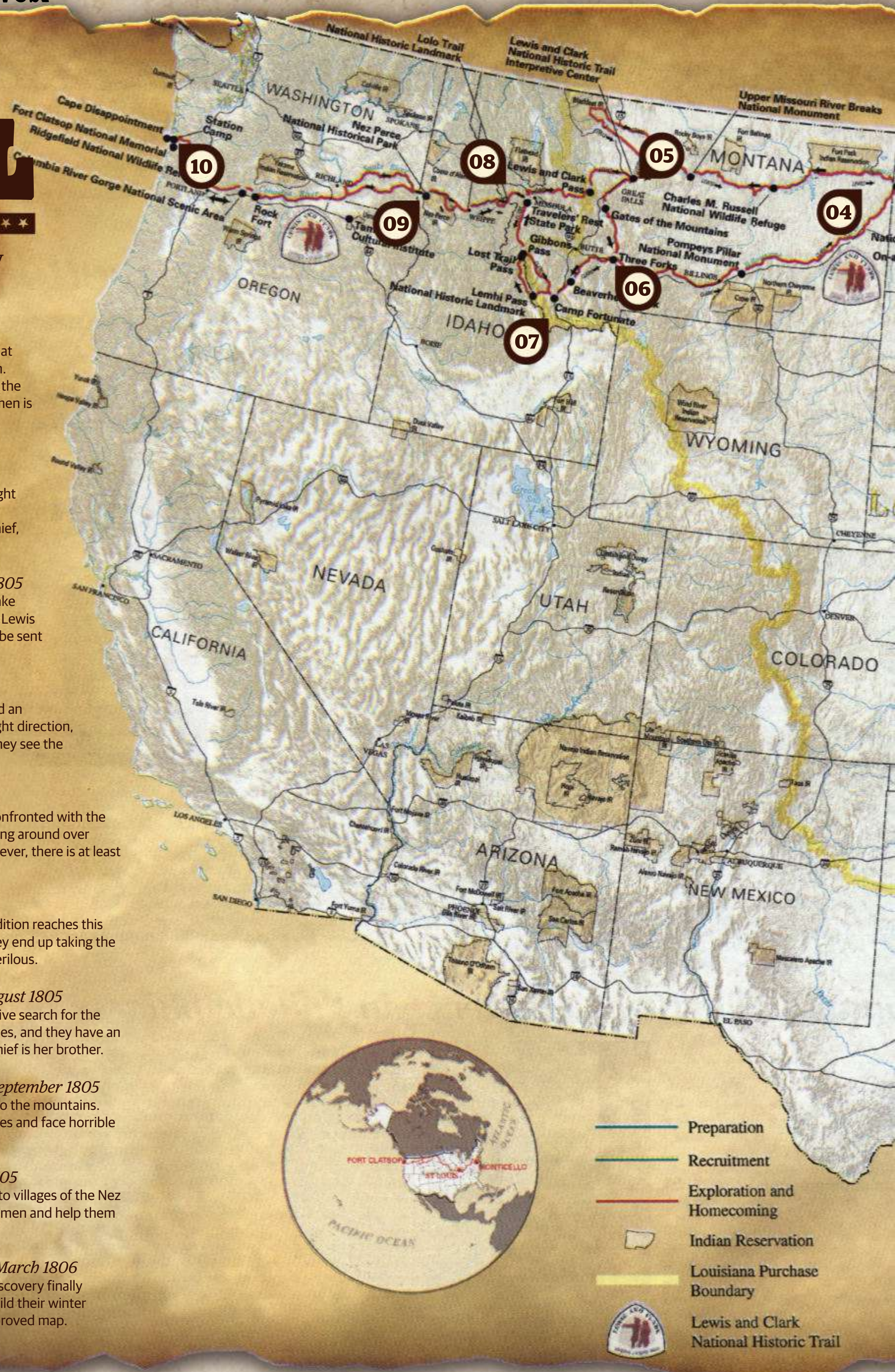
Accompanied by a Shoshone guide, the expedition sets out into the mountains. They are ill-prepared for such a long journey through the Rockies and face horrible weather conditions and the possibility of starvation.

09. Nez Perce *23 September – 7 October 1805*

They finally find their way out of the mountains and straight into villages of the Nez Perce Indians. The locals take pity on the starving, bedraggled men and help them to prepare for the final stage of their journey with new canoes.

10. Fort Clatsop *24 November 1805 – 23 March 1806*

After one false alarm almost two weeks earlier, the Corps of Discovery finally arrives at the Pacific Ocean. They take a vote as to where to build their winter camp and dream of home while Lewis works on a new and improved map.


National Historic Landmark
Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center
Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
Cape Disappointment
Fort Clatsop National Memorial
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
Station Camp
WASHINGTON
Nez Perce National Historical Park
Lewis and Clark Pass
MONTANA
Travelers' Rest State Park
Gates of the Mountains
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
Pompeys Pillar National Monument
Three Forks
Gibbons Pass
Lost Trail Pass
Beaverhead
Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark
Camp Fortunate
Rock Fort
Tamastslikt Cultural Institute
OREGON
IDAHO
WYOMING
NEVADA
UTAH
COLORADO
CALIFORNIA
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
04
05
06
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09
10
FORT CLATSOP
ST LOUIS
MONTICELLO
ATLANTIC OCEAN
PACIFIC OCEAN
Preparation
Recruitment
Exploration and Homecoming
Indian Reservation
Louisiana Purchase Boundary
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Notable discoveries

Grizzly bear

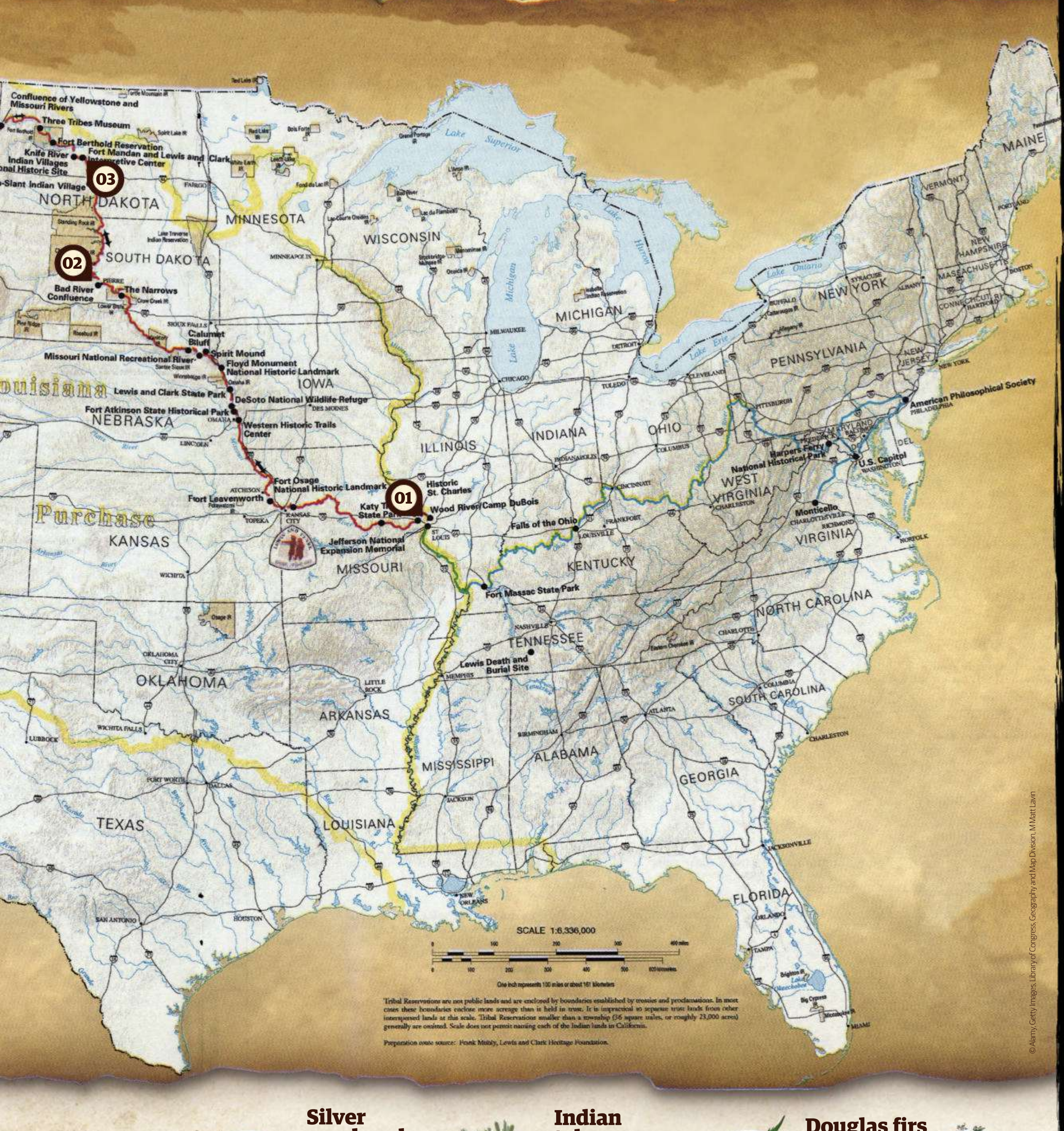
The grizzly bears were far bigger than any they had seen before. It took more than ten shots to bring down a single bear when they faced one.

Prairie dogs

Lewis and Clark found these creatures fascinating, particularly the way in which they lived in connected burrows (described as 'towns').

Bison

The explorers were not prepared for the experience of seeing bison in the wild. Lewis wrote of a friendly calf that was only scared of his dog.


Confluence of Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers
Three Tribes Museum
Fort Berthold Reservation
Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
Fort Mandan and Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center
On-A-Slant Indian Village
03
NORTH DAKOTA
02
SOUTH DAKOTA
Bad River Confluence
The Narrows
Calumet Bluff
Spirit Mound
Missouri National Recreational River
Floyd Monument National Historic Landmark
Louisiana
Lewis and Clark State Park
DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
Fort Atkinson State Historical Park
Western Historic Trails Center
NEBRASKA
IOWA
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
OHIO
Fort Osage National Historic Landmark
Fort Leavenworth
Katy Trail State Park
01
Historic St. Charles
Wood River/Camp DuBois
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
Purchase
KANSAS
MISSOURI
Falls of the Ohio
KENTUCKY
Fort Massac State Park
WEST VIRGINIA
National Historical Park
Harpers Ferry
U.S. Capitol
Monticello
VIRGINIA
American Philosophical Society
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW YORK
NEW JERSEY
MARYLAND
DEL
VERMONT
NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAINE
MASSACHUSETTS
CONNECTICUT
RI
TENNESSEE
Lewis Death and Burial Site
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA
ALABAMA
MISSISSIPPI
ARKANSAS
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
LOUISIANA
FLORIDA
Lake Superior
Lake Michigan
Lake Huron
Lake Erie
Lake Ontario
SCALE 1:6,336,000
0
100
200
300
400 miles
0
100
200
300
400
500
600 kilometers
One inch represents 100 miles or about 161 kilometers

Tribal Reservations are not public lands and are enclosed by boundaries established by treaties and proclamations. In most cases these boundaries enclose more acreage than is held in trust. It is impractical to separate trust lands from other interspersed lands at this scale. Tribal Reservations smaller than a township (36 square miles, or roughly 23,000 acres) generally are omitted. Scale does not permit naming each of the Indian lands in California.

Preparation route source: Frank Muhly, Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation.

© Alamy, Getty Images, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, M Matt Lavin

Coyote

Described as 'a prairie wolf', Lewis and Clark heard these creatures howling in the night. They were familiar to European traders but unknown to the men.

Silver sagebrush

First seen in October 1804, the sagebrush, now known as *Artemisia cana*, was described as an "aromatic herb", and it spread through great swathes of the West.

Indian tobacco

As a tobacco grower, Lewis took particular interest in the two species he encountered on the trip, taking notes on how the Arikaras tribe grew and harvested their crops.

Douglas firs

Towards the end of the voyage they saw a variety of fir trees, with Lewis doing his best to describe six in his journal, including the Douglas fir.

DAVY CROCKETT

Was Davy Crockett really the king of the wild frontier? Perhaps not, but he was certainly a legend in his own lifetime

David 'Davy' Crockett led an eventful life by almost anyone's standards. At various times he was a frontiersman, politician and soldier, and he was certainly a colourful character. But his fame during his lifetime and long afterwards isn't just down to his real achievements. The tall stories he told about himself - and encouraged others to invent - made him a folk hero and legend in his own lifetime. Even today, when historical researchers have uncovered much of the truth about Davy's life, many of his admirers still prefer the made-up versions.

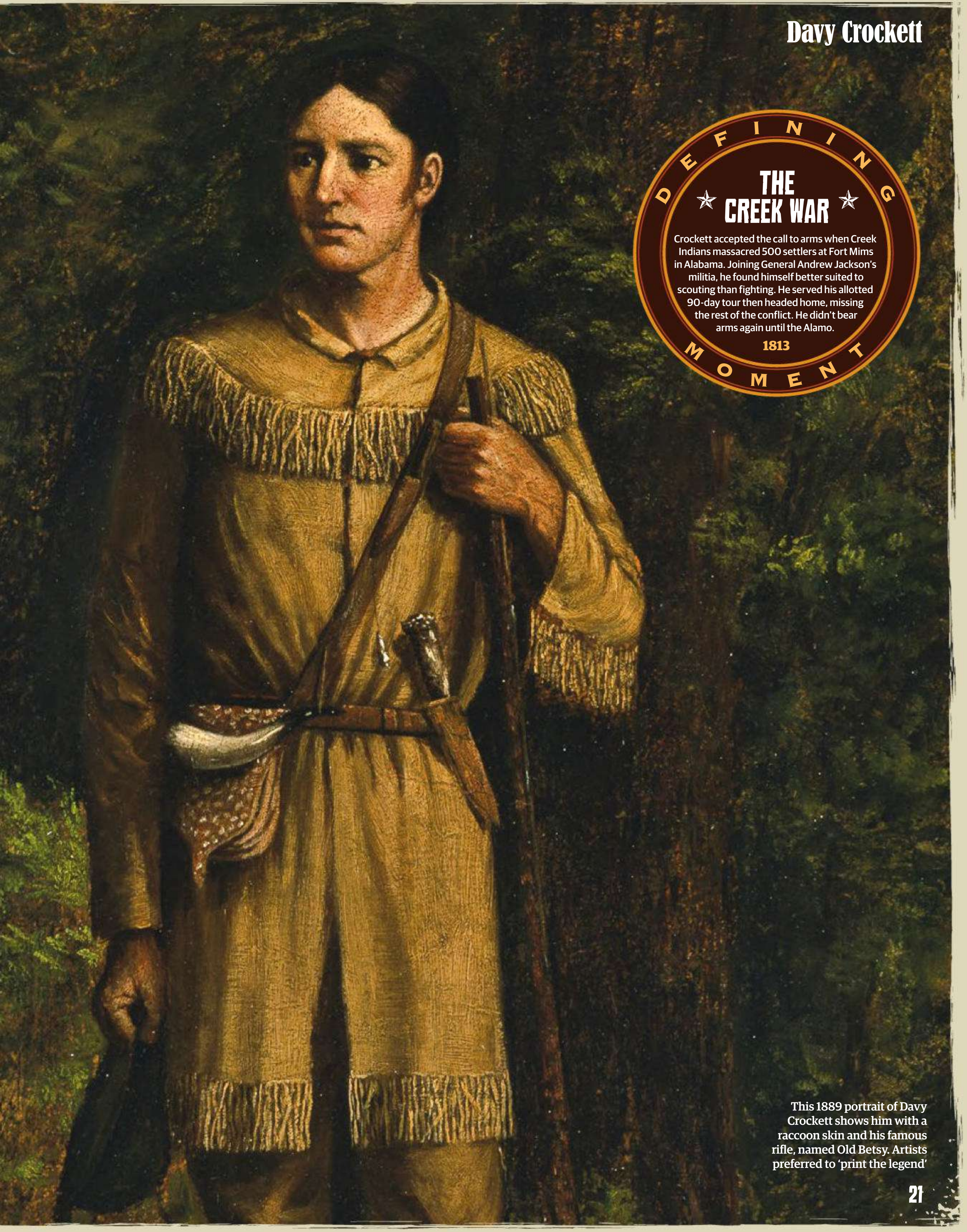
Davy was born in 1786, in a U.S. state that no longer exists: the breakaway territory of Franklin, formerly considered part of North Carolina. Davy's father John was part of the strident movement trying to get Franklin officially recognised as the 14th State of America. The campaign was unsuccessful, however, and by the time Davy was 11 years old Franklin had been folded into the newly formed state of Tennessee. But the politicking that must have been the constant topic of conversation in the Crockett household clearly left an impression on the fifth of John and his wife Rebecca's nine children.

In the 20 years before he took up his own political office, Davy packed his life with experiences - some voluntary and others less so. Various financial calamities befell his family during his childhood, so he was forced to go out to work from the age of 12. His first job was as a cowboy on a 400-mile cattle drive to Virginia, and he undertook several similar journeys during the rest of his teens, although he also trained as a hatter for four years.

All of those jobs were in the service of paying off his father's debts, but John released him from his obligations in 1802, making Davy his own man for the first time. Two marriages and a brood of children followed, and he gained some notoriety as a bear hunter providing meat for his local community. But in 1813 the lure of action was enough to make him leave his family and enlist with General Andrew Jackson's militia for the violent campaign against the Creek Indians. He only signed up as a scout though, and he missed all of the major battles.

His military stint earned him more respect in his Tennessee hometown when he returned to his farm, leading to his election as a justice of the peace in 1817. He'd never read a single law book and had rarely attended school, but his homespun wisdom and common-sense decisions when dealing with criminals made him a popular local figure, and none of his rulings were ever appealed.

His rise continued. In 1818, annoyed by the other candidates, he successfully campaigned to get himself elected as lieutenant colonel of his local militia regiment. Despite only holding the post for a couple of years, he used the 'Colonel' title for the



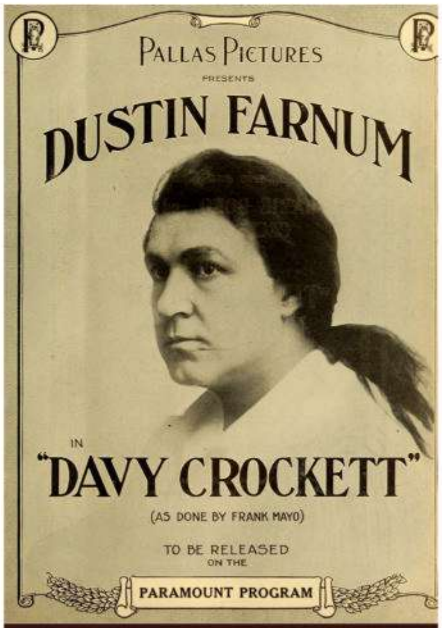
DEFINING MOMENT

THE CREEK WAR

Crockett accepted the call to arms when Creek Indians massacred 500 settlers at Fort Mims in Alabama. Joining General Andrew Jackson's militia, he found himself better suited to scouting than fighting. He served his allotted 90-day tour then headed home, missing the rest of the conflict. He didn't bear arms again until the Alamo.

1813

This 1889 portrait of Davy Crockett shows him with a raccoon skin and his famous rifle, named Old Betsy. Artists preferred to 'print the legend'



Poster for a 1916 Davy Crockett film starring Dustin Farnum. No known print of the film survives

Davy Crockett: Five facts

1. He married his second wife (the widow Elizabeth Patton) the same year his first wife (Polly Finley) died.
2. He caught malaria during the Creek War from wading around in mosquito-infested swamps hunting renegade Natives.
3. He tried to abolish the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, believing it a misuse of public money.
4. He witnessed an assassination attempt on President Andrew Jackson and helped tackle and disarm his would-be assailant.
5. Despite his folk-hero status there, he only spent a total of three months in Texas.

rest of his life. He also became a local commissioner, helping make decisions concerning the running of the town and configuring the county boundaries. In 1821 he decided to run for the Tennessee state legislature, the campaign trail that began to see him honing his skills at spinning yarns, garnering him more fame. At local hustings he won over crowds with his garrulous nature and, reportedly, bribes of free drinks; there are several reports of him delivering a speech and then inviting an entire audience to a nearby bar to stop them staying to hear the next candidate. The legends continued to grow around him.

One popular story has him placing a bet with a barman that there'll be drinks all round if he can shoot a raccoon, which he duly achieves. He then keeps winning the same bet simply by stealing the dead raccoon back and giving it to the dim-witted barkeep again. Another time, he apparently stole his opponent's speech and delivered it first, leaving the other man with nothing to say. He claimed his smile was so dazzling it could stun a raccoon so he didn't need to shoot it and that his prowess as a raccoon killer stemmed from a vow he made never to be fooled again after a wily raccoon had outwitted him (apparently by using flattery).

This good-old-boy persona was a hit with the voters, carrying him to the state legislature in 1823 and eventually, in 1827, to Congress. The uneducated, rough-and-ready frontiersman cut an odd figure in stuffy Washington.

In 1831, a satirical play called *The Lion of the West* opened in New York to huge success. Everyone recognised its ridiculous hero, Nimrod Wildfire, as a parody of Crockett, but far from being offended, Crockett embraced the fun of the character and the popularity that came with it. Fact and fiction began to merge in the public consciousness. It was Nimrod Wildfire that wore the raccoon skin hat; Crockett probably never wore one in his life. And yet it's that hat in which Crockett immediately began to be depicted in popular culture. That image survives to this day.

Crockett collaborated with the author Thomas Chilton in 1834 on an exaggerated autobiography, catchily titled *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee*. Apocryphal stories also started appearing in almanacs and dime novels about his adventures and his hunting and military prowess, and he undertook speaking tours. But this wasn't simple self-aggrandisement to play up his achievements.

The difference between Crockett's stories and someone like Buffalo Bill's is that Crockett's tall tales were tongue-in-cheek and couldn't possibly be believed. He sailed an alligator up the Niagara Falls, waded the Mississippi and jumped the Ohio; he was half horse; he rode a streak of lightning and broke the tail off Halley's Comet. He even lit his pipe on the Sun.

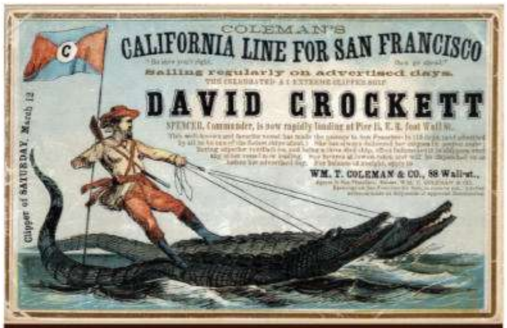
Despite (or perhaps because of) his widespread celebrity, he was far from popular in Congress. Predictably something of a maverick, his fierce opposition to the Indian Removal Act and his championing of ordinary people's rights against wealthy business interests did not sit well with his colleagues and rivals. He made a lot of political enemies and failed to get a single law passed. Washington cared very little about treating Natives fairly or legislating for the poor. Andrew Jackson, by then the seventh U.S. president, became increasingly frustrated with this unruly congressman, and

DEFINING MOMENT

CROCKETT THE CONGRESSMAN

Crockett served on the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, representing the rights of the people who voted for him: largely poor Tennessean pioneer farmers. Elected to Congress, he achieved little, antagonised many and lost the confidence of his own electorate when he voted against the Indian Removal Act.

1827


COLEMAN'S
CALIFORNIA LINE FOR SAN FRANCISCO
Sailing regularly on advertised days.
DAVID CROCKETT
WM. T. COLEMAN & CO., 88 Wall-st.,
Clipper of SATURDAY, March 12

A sailing card for the clipper ship David Crockett, depicting Davy sailing on two alligators (1855)

TIMELINE

1786

Davy Crockett is born
Not on a mountaintop (as the song goes) but in Greene County, Tennessee, not far east of Knoxville. His parents were pioneer farmers and tavern owners, but neither business was successful.

1798

The cowboy life
After some very cursory schooling, young Davy is sent out to work. His main jobs are as a cowboy, part of teams undertaking long cattle drives across the country.

1806

Davy's first marriage
Crockett marries Polly Finley despite the objections of her mother to the uncultured lout. They have three children: John Wesley Crockett, William Finley Crockett and Margaret Finley Crockett.

1812

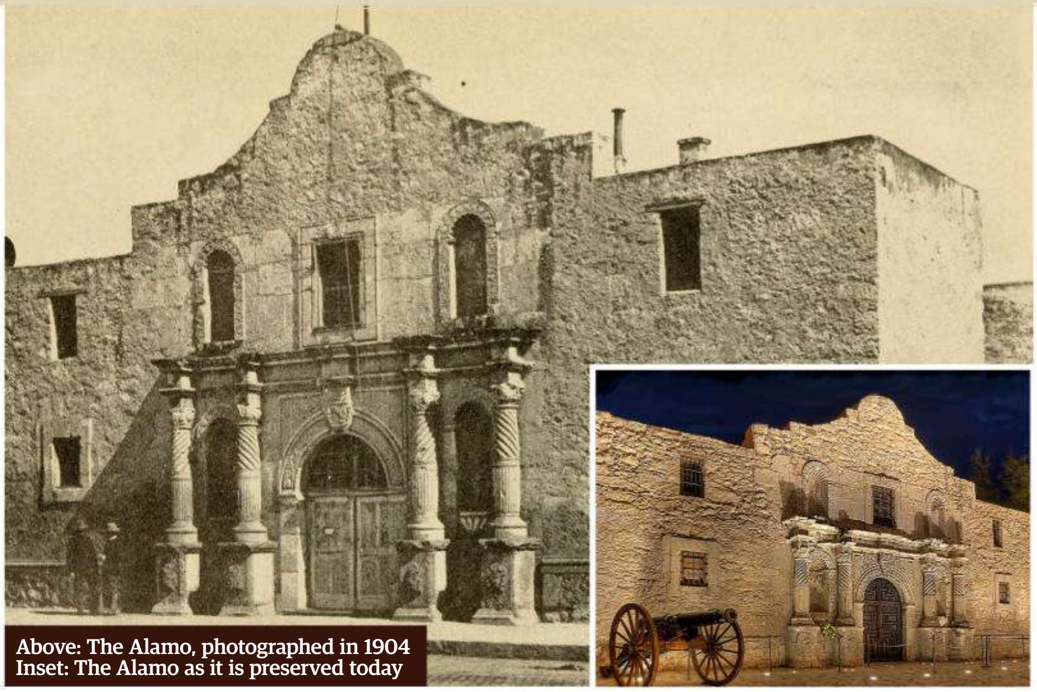
The great hunter
Crockett becomes a respected member of his community as an accomplished frontiersman and talented hunter. He claims to have killed 100 bears in a single season.

1815

Davy's second marriage
Crockett's second wife is the widow Elizabeth Patton. She already has two children (Margaret-Ann and George) and has three more with Crockett: Robert, Rebecca and Matilda.

1817

Justice of the peace
Crockett begins to develop a taste for politics at a local level after moving to Shoal Creek, Tennessee. He becomes the town's first lawman and excels at it.


Above: The Alamo, photographed in 1904
Inset: The Alamo as it is preserved today

Crockett in turn became disappointed and disillusioned with the man he had once followed into the Creek War.

Crockett was finally defeated at the polls at the end of his second term in 1835. Restless, broke and with his political career over, he started to look for new opportunities and identified them out west, where miles of Texan land was ripe for the taking and tensions with Mexico were simmering.

By the time he got to Texas war with Mexico was looking increasingly likely, and Crockett was optimistic about the political role he might play in it. He swore an oath of allegiance to the provisional Government of Texas "or any future Republican government that may hereafter be dared" and embarked once again on a campaign trail (this time with an armed entourage), giving the rousing speeches he was now so renowned for.

Finally coming to a halt in San Antonio with a group of mounted volunteers, he was put in charge of the garrison, still expecting political rather than physical conflict. On 23 February 1836, however, the garrison was taken by surprise when it was ambushed by the Mexican Army led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. The famous siege of San Antonio's Alamo mission ensued: 13 days of artillery bombardment ending with the Mexicans storming the complex. After 90 minutes of battle all of the Alamo's defenders, including Crockett, were dead, with many captured and then executed.

Despite his violent end, Crockett lived on in popular culture. A play entitled *Davy Crockett*, or *Be Sure You're Right, Then Go Ahead* (one of his famous homilies) was staged in New York in 1872 and remained popular until the death of its principal actor, Frank Mayo, in 1896. In the 1950s, a successful Disney TV series sparked Crockett-mania, selling millions of records of its theme song and creating a huge demand for Crockett-themed children's toys and raccoon skin hats (the hats reached sales of 5,000 a day, raising the wholesale price of raccoon tails by 2,000 per cent). John Wayne played Crockett in the big-budget spectacular *The Alamo* in 1960, and Billy Bob Thornton took the role in the 2004 remake. 181 years after his violent demise, we remember the fictional Crockett more than the real one. He'd probably be delighted by that.

DEFINING MOMENT

REMEMBER THE ALAMO

Seeking new opportunities, Crockett went west to explore Texas and investigate the political situation regarding the brewing Texas Revolution. Signing an oath to the Provisional Government of Texas, he's made the leader of the Alamo garrison and defends it against the almost two-week siege by Mexican General Santa Anna.

1836

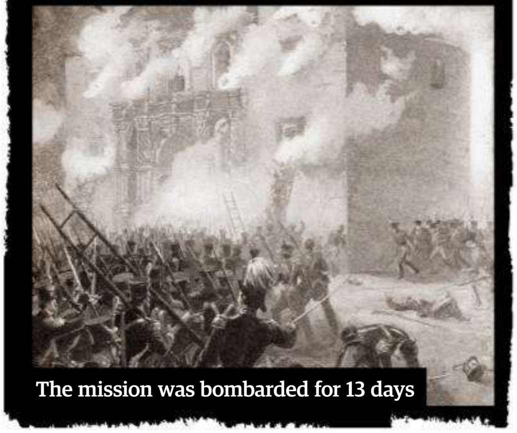
The death of Davy Crockett

Depending on whom you ask, Davy Crockett's death at the Alamo was either a heroic blaze of glory or a shameful defeat. The popular version, maintained by many of Crockett's defenders, particularly in Texas, where he remains a folk hero, is essentially the one depicted in the famous 1950s Disney TV series.

According to this story, Crockett, the last man standing at the battle, was finally overwhelmed by the Mexican hordes but went down fighting, swinging his rifle around him like a club because he was out of bullets. Lots of paintings and book covers depict him in this moment, encircled by heaps of Mexican bodies.

Historical research, however, suggests that Crockett surrendered and was taken prisoner along with other survivors of the siege. All were then executed when General Santa Anna refused clemency. Several eyewitness accounts attest to this - one even says Crockett tried to pretend to his captors that he was merely a tourist taking refuge in the Alamo when the fighting started.

However, those who prefer the former story point out that the only surviving eyewitnesses were Mexicans who wanted to smear Crockett's sterling reputation. Some historians have even faced abuse and death threats for daring to suggest the surrender story is true. Some truly die-hard Crockett fans even claim he wasn't killed at all.


The mission was bombarded for 13 days

1818

Lieutenant colonel of militia
Initially believing military ranks to be elitist, Crockett is persuaded to run for a top position in his local militia. He holds the commission for two years.

1821

Elected to state legislature
Crockett becomes a commissioner in Lawrenceburg, Virginia, and is then asked to run for Tennessee legislature, meaning he'll be responsible for decisions at state level. He wins the vote.

1831

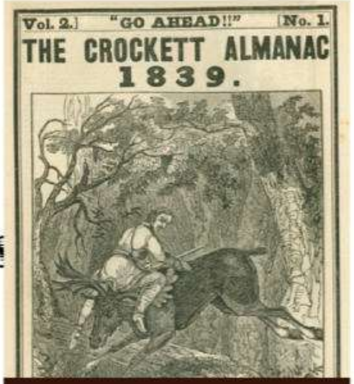
Lion of the West
Crockett's larger-than-life personality is parodied in a popular play in New York. Crockett enjoys the attention and endorses the play. Other fictional representations of him follow.

1834

Crockett's own story
Crockett seeks to rein in the mythology and set the record straight with his own autobiography. It's less outlandish than some Crockett yarns but still quite liberal with the truth.

1835

Out of office
Having failed to pass a single piece of legislation in Congress, Crockett loses the election at the end of his second term. He is defeated by William Fitzgerald.


Vol. 2.] "GO AHEAD!!" [No. 1.
THE CROCKETT ALMANAC
1839.

An issue of the *Crockett Almanac*, 1839. "Adventure, Exploits, Sprees and Scrapes in the West"

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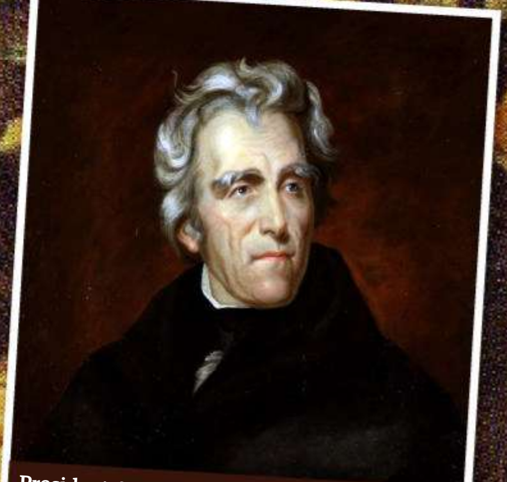
INDIAN REMOVAL ACT

President Andrew Jackson's controversial legislation removed tens of thousands of Native Americans from their own land. The exodus became known as the Trail of Tears

By 1830, the number of white settlers desiring to move into Indian-occupied territory, and the clamour of their demands, prompted the U.S. Government to take drastic action in favour of its electorate. The 'solution' arrived at under the presidency of Andrew Jackson was the Indian Removal Act, which would uproot the "Five Civilised Tribes" (Choctaw, Seminole, Muscogee/Creek, Chickasaw and Cherokee) from their lands in the Deep South of America and displace them hundreds of miles to new territories further west.

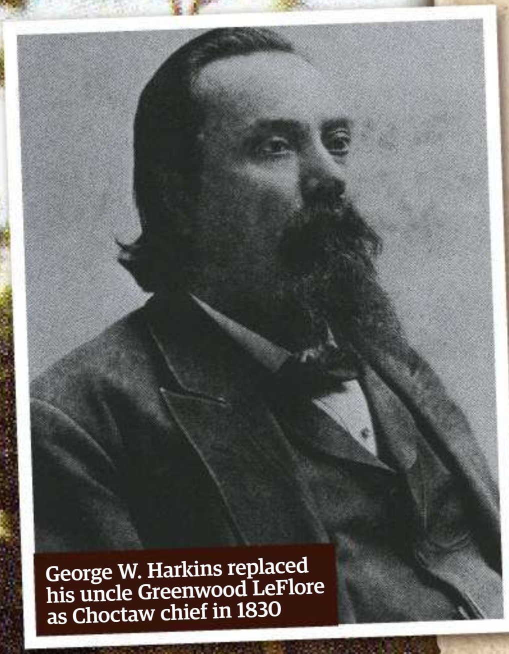
Prior to the act, the five tribes had been assured of their right to remain east of the Mississippi as long as they toed certain lines of European society, such as adopting Anglo-European cultural behaviours and practices and converting to Christianity. Jackson, however, called an end to this era in his State of the Union speech in 1829, arguing that nobody can stand in the way of "progress" and that relocation was the only way to prevent the Indians' otherwise inevitable annihilation. According to his proposal, Indians could only observe self-rule in federally designated reservations west of the Mississippi, and they would be forcibly escorted to those lands.

The act was passed in the Senate on 28 May 1830 after much acrimonious debate; although in the end only the maverick congressman Davy Crockett voted against it. Over the course of the following 20 years, the Five Tribes were 'escorted' on foot to their new destination in Oklahoma by local militia forces. Many resisted, leading to scrappy wars before the Indians could be subdued and marched on their way again. Disease was rife, environmental conditions were severe, and the Indians were subject to constant attacks en route, meaning that thousands died without seeing the end point of their arduous and unjust journey. The European Americans inherited 25 million acres of land, little caring about the appalling price.



President Andrew Jackson, painted in 1824 by Thomas Sully. Jackson was incumbent in office for almost the entire Removal period

THE CHOCTAW



George W. Harkins replaced his uncle Greenwood LeFlore as Choctaw chief in 1830

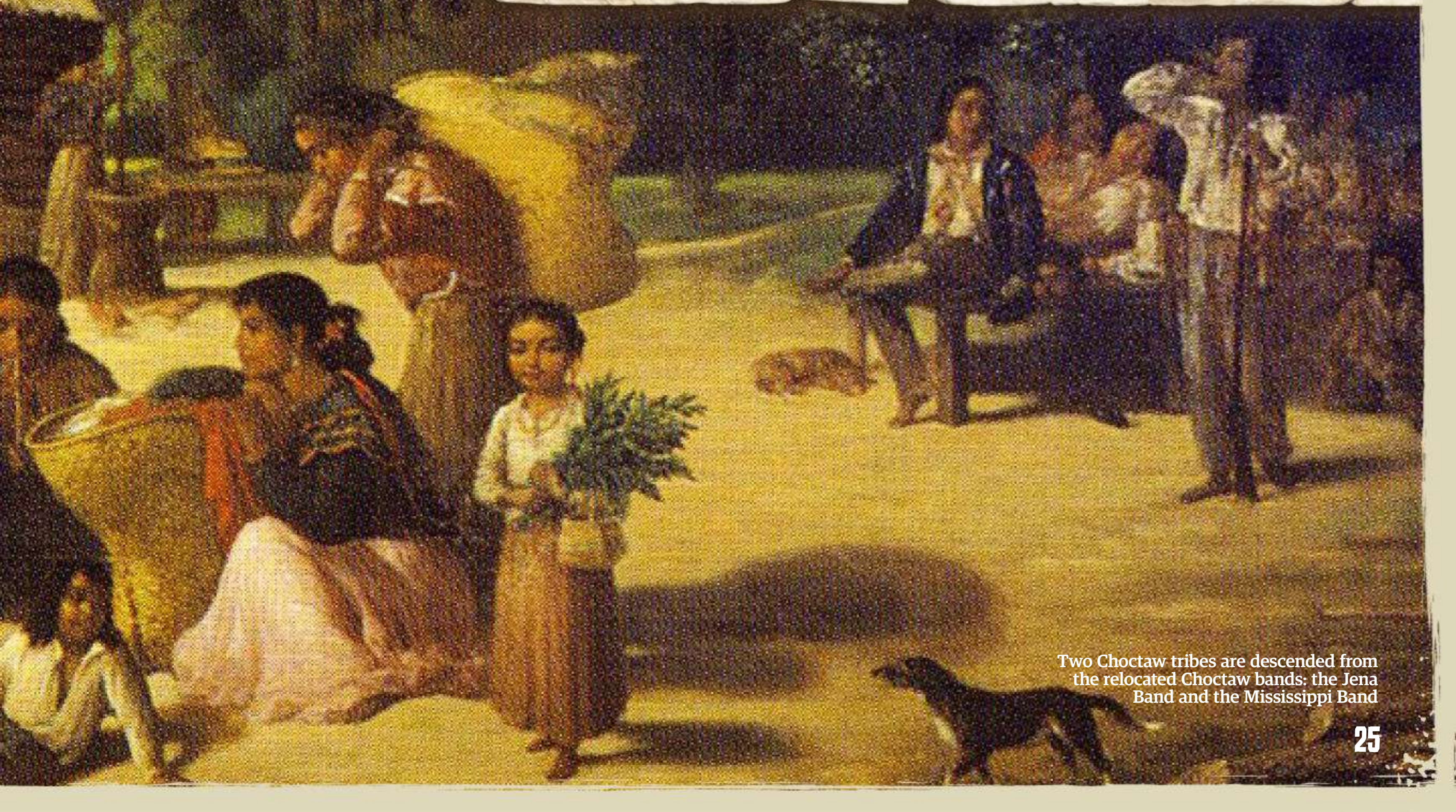
The Choctaw were the earliest of the Five Civilised Tribes to be evicted from their lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana following the Indian Removal Act. Their relocation was managed in three stages between 1831 and 1833, although some Choctaw refused to leave and their uprooting continued throughout the rest of the 19th century and into the 20th.

The Choctaw nation had come together in the 17th century from the remnants of other tribes that had occupied lands in the Deep South of America for many thousands of years. A lot of Choctaw had fought for George Washington's army during the American Revolutionary War, and in the politically fraught times that followed, the Choctaw generally sided with the nascent United States Government (or at least never took up arms against it; they even fought with the U.S. against the Creek Indians in 1813). This spirit of cooperation, however, didn't garner them any special treatment or privileges. Jackson visited them in 1820 as a commissioner representing the United States in a treaty negotiating the boundaries of Choctaw lands. He decided to resort to blackmail, bribery and threats to get his way.

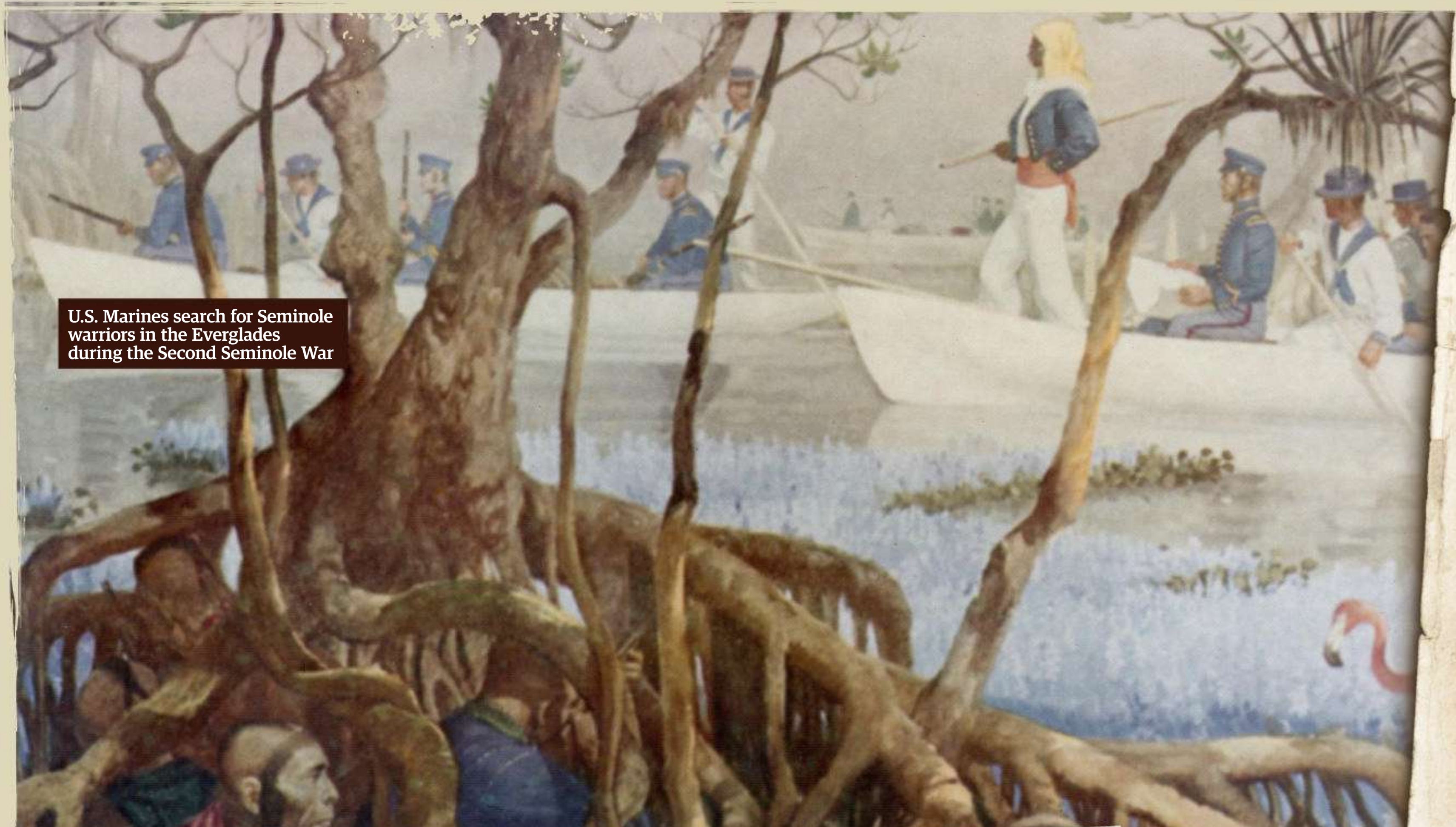
The 1820 Treaty of Doak's Stand saw the Choctaw ceding half their land to the U.S. Government and agreeing to work towards U.S. citizenship, which would only be granted once they were deemed "civilised and enlightened". But a decade later, with Jackson now in office, those remaining rights were lost and the final 11 million acres of traditional Choctaw land exchanged for 15 million in what's now Oklahoma in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. It was the Choctaw's final significant land cession treaty and the first under the Removal Act. Chief Greenwood LeFlore was almost immediately deposed by the Choctaw for signing the treaty and succeeded by his nephew, George W. Harkins.

Following the treaty, the Choctaw divided into two distinct groups: the Choctaw Nation, who undertook the trek to Oklahoma, and the Choctaw Tribe, who stayed behind in Mississippi. Those 5,000 or so who held out were granted U.S. citizenship but endured legal conflict, harassment, intimidation and violence at the hands of the European Americans who wanted them gone (by 1930 only about 1,600 were still there). The 15,000 who left, meanwhile, had to contend with the brutal winter of 1830-31 and a cholera epidemic in 1832. About 6,000 Choctaw died on the journey.

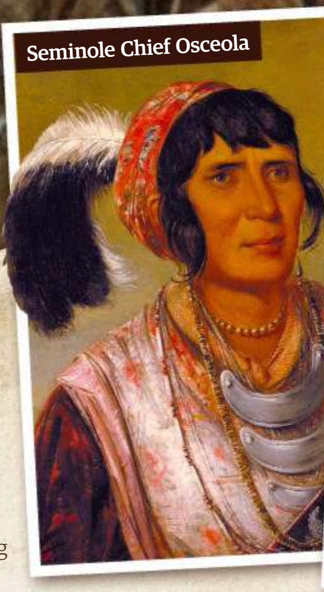
In the years that followed, most Choctaw supported the Confederacy during the American Civil War, largely due to the promise of a state under Indian control. In World War I, the Choctaw were the first of the U.S. Army's famous code talkers (their language, as far as the enemy was concerned, an unbreakable code). Today they are the third largest of the remaining Native American tribes.



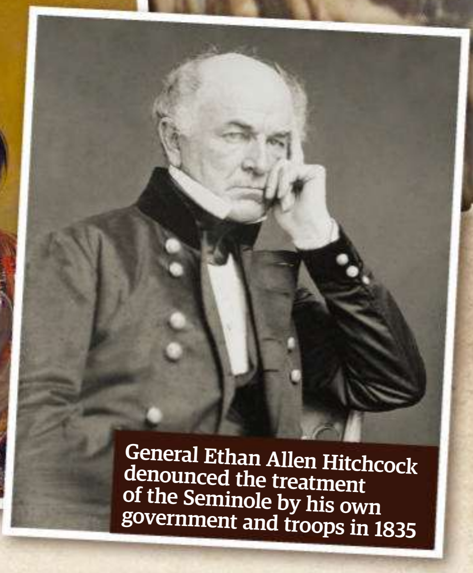
Two Choctaw tribes are descended from the relocated Choctaw bands: the Jena Band and the Mississippi Band



U.S. Marines search for Seminole warriors in the Everglades during the Second Seminole War



Seminole Chief Osceola



General Ethan Allen Hitchcock denounced the treatment of the Seminole by his own government and troops in 1835

THE SEMINOLE

The Seminole had settled in the Florida area in the early 18th century. As a people they were a culture made up of offshoots of the Creek, Choctaw and other tribes. Their name is derived from the Spanish 'cimarrón', meaning 'wild' or even 'runaway'. Under the Indian Removal Act they were to be settled in Creek territory west of the Mississippi and be folded back into the Creek tribe. They put up fierce resistance to this, however, fearing that the Creek – who considered them deserters – would take it upon themselves to be aggressively unwelcoming to the Seminole people.

They had fought Andrew Jackson's initial incursions into Florida in a prolonged conflict between 1816 and 1819. However, the Removal Act sparked the Second Seminole War, which raged from 1835 until 1842.

The specific treaty detailing the proposed removal of the Seminole was the Treaty of Payne's Landing. The seven chiefs of the Seminole had travelled to the new Oklahoma reservation and reportedly signed documents agreeing that it was acceptable. But on returning to Florida the chiefs retracted their apparent consent, saying they had been coerced and bullied into compliance. Even some U.S. Army officers supported this claim. Nevertheless, the treaty was ratified in April 1834, giving the Seminole three years to vacate the land. When the Seminole refused to recognise the treaty, Florida prepared for conflict.

The 28th of December 1835 saw the Dade Massacre, where 110 American soldiers under the command of Major Francis Dade were ambushed and killed by Seminole warriors. U.S. Major Ethan Allen Hitchcock, who found the bodies, wrote that it was a wholly avoidable tragedy brought about by "the tyranny of our government". Further skirmishes took place in the subsequent months at Fort Brooke, Fort Barnwell, Camp Cooper, Fort Alabama and Fort Drane, none of which resulted in the defeat of the Seminole: several of the forts even had to be abandoned by the American troops. It eventually took a force of 9,000 U.S. Marines, navy and militia under the command of Major General Thomas Jesup to subdue an Indian resistance that had never numbered more than 1,400 warriors. A truce was reached following the Battle of Hatchee-Lustee in January 1837. Hundreds of Seminole surrendered at this point, but those few who did not kept the conflict going until August 1842.

The last act of the war was the capture of Chief Tiger Tail (one of the Seminole leaders during the Dade Massacre) and the killing of his small band of holdouts. Tiger Tail died in New Orleans before he could be transported to Oklahoma. Most of the Seminole resigned themselves to removal, although a hundred or so remained in the Florida Everglades and were left alone on an-ad-hoc reservation of their own. They remain the only tribe never to relinquish their sovereignty or sign a peace treaty with the U.S.

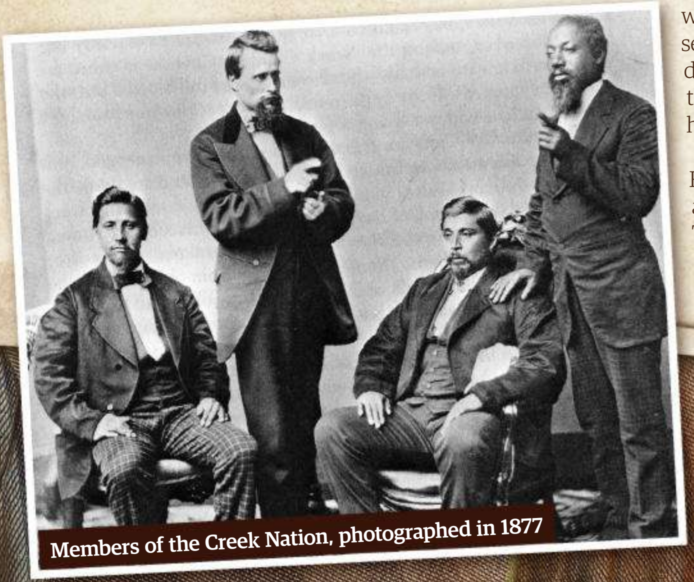
THE CREEK

Indigenous to the Southeastern Woodlands of the United States, the Creek had been the first Native Americans to be classed as 'civilised': they were the first of the Five Civilised Tribes. That's perhaps surprising given their history of resistance and conflict with the U.S. They had seen their lands ceded to the U.S. by the British following the American Revolution and had fought alongside the Cherokee against the white settlers of Tennessee during the Cherokee-American Wars of the late 1700s.

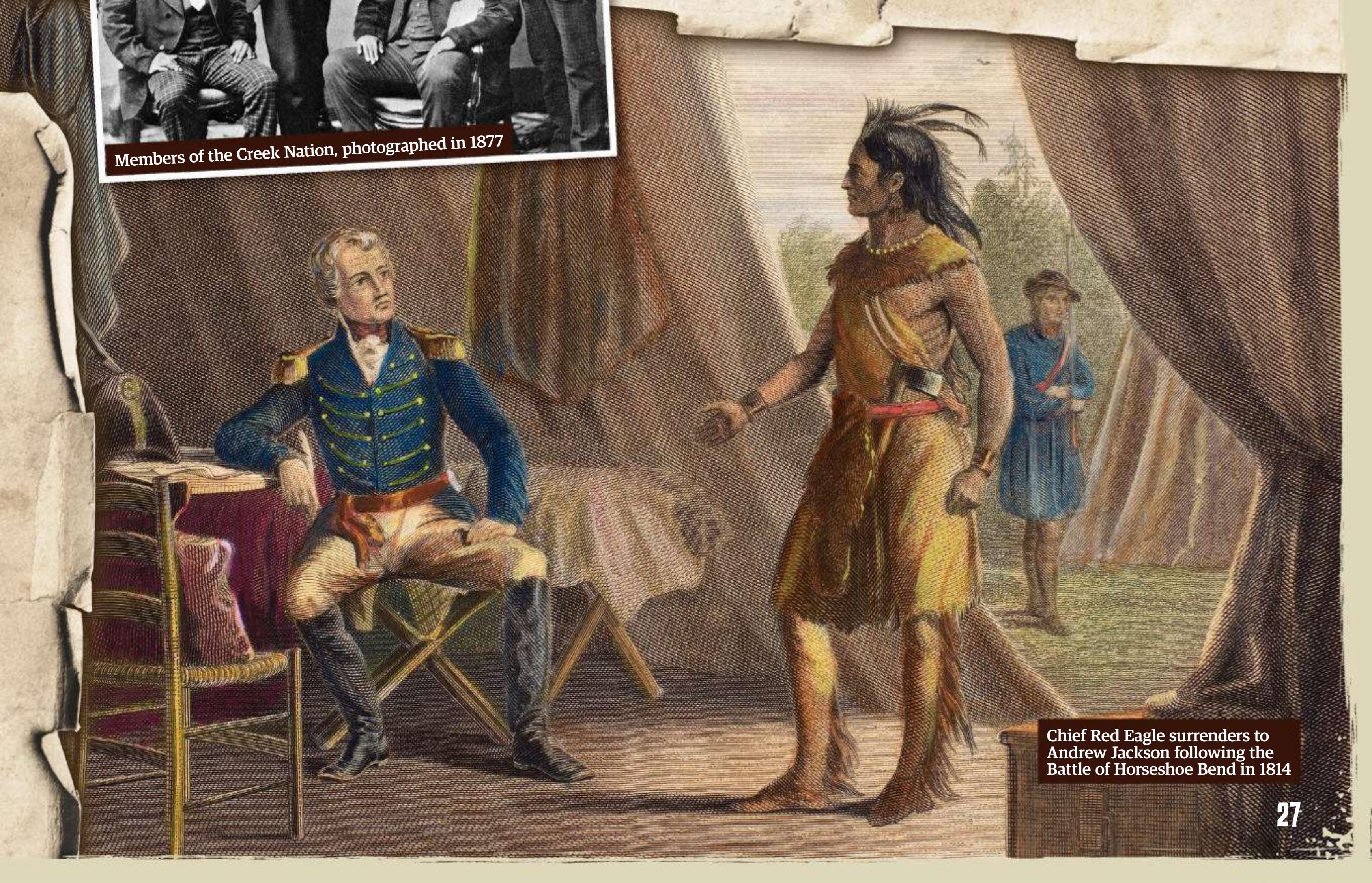
The outbreak of the Creek War in 1813 was a series of conflicts between the Creek's Red Stick faction and American militias. There were several Red Stick attacks on American forts, including a famous massacre at Fort Mims, Alabama, in August. Creek men, women and children were slaughtered in retaliation for an atrocity at Tallushatchee in November of the same year. General Andrew Jackson finally put down the rebellion at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in March 1814. The Creek signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson in August, ceding 23 million acres of land in Georgia and Alabama to the U.S. Government. The war effectively undid all the work of previous Creek generations who had attempted to coexist peacefully with the European American settlers. The antipathy Jackson developed for the Creek during the conflict would be carried into his presidency.

By the time of the Indian Removal Act there were still about 20,000 Creek in Alabama. Their lands had been divided into individual allotments, and the terms of 1832's Treaty of Cusseta actually gave them the choice of remaining in situ (and submitting to state laws) or relocating to Oklahoma with financial compensation for doing so. In practice, however, staying in place was never really an option. Illegal occupation of Creek lands by settlers was widespread, with U.S. authorities largely turning a blind eye. The increasingly impoverished and desperate Creek resorted once again to attacking the interlopers, leading to the short-lived Second Creek War of 1836. It ended with the forced removal of the Creek by troops under the command of General Winfield Scott. In mid-1837 about 15,000 Creek were first rounded up into internment camps and then driven from their land for the final time. About a quarter of them died on the arduous journey west to Oklahoma.

Subsequently, the Creek were divided in their loyalties during the American Civil War, with some supporting the Confederacy and others siding with the Union. President Abraham Lincoln initially rewarded the loyalists with increased government aid, but the actions of the rebels meant a new treaty was required in 1866. Under its terms the Creek lost further territory, with part of the Creek reservation given over to recently emancipated slaves.



Members of the Creek Nation, photographed in 1877



Chief Red Eagle surrenders to Andrew Jackson following the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814

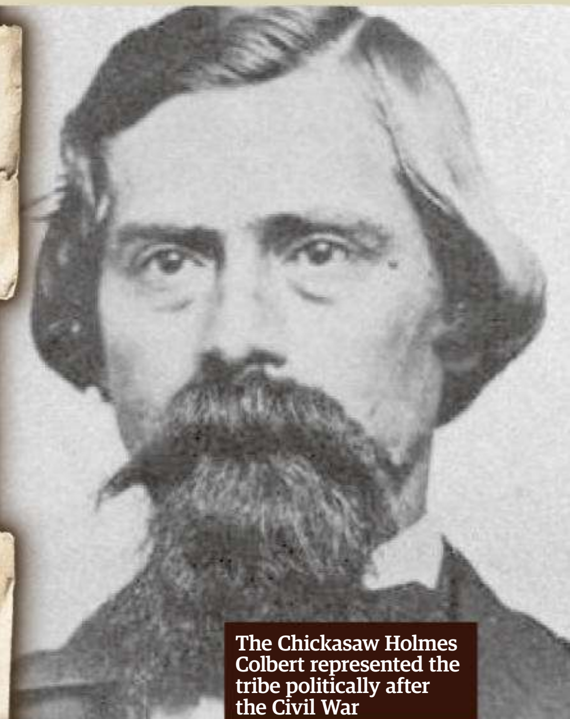
THE CHICKASAW

The Chickasaw are closely related to the Choctaw. Their oral history recalls their settling in Mississippi in prehistoric times, and the two peoples separated into distinct tribes sometime in the 17th century. Their first contact with Europeans was when the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto encountered them in 1540. After several disagreements they attacked his entourage and he swiftly moved on. They allied with the British in 1670 (a period that often brought them into conflict with the Choctaw) and with the newly formed United States in the Revolutionary War. Subsequently, they tended always to side with the U.S. and its government, even as their rights and lands were eroded.

The treaty securing their removal west was that of Pontotoc Creek in 1832. A previous attempt had failed in 1830, when the Chickasaw had baulked at the poor quality of the land they were being offered in Oklahoma. But two years later, with the encroachment of the European American settlers onto their valuable Mississippi territories and an epidemic of whiskey addiction, they began to feel their culture was being overwhelmed and on the point of being wiped out. An indication of their desperation at this point is that they ended up ceding their Mississippi lands to the government on merely the promise of new land being found for them. Uniquely among the Five Civilised Tribes, they were also persuaded to pay for their own migration. They used the financial compensation they received for their Mississippi lands to buy a part of the Choctaw tribe's new Oklahoma territory. The American Senate ratified the agreement between the Chickasaw and the Choctaw in the 1837 Treaty of Doaksville - unusual for an internal matter between Native Americans.

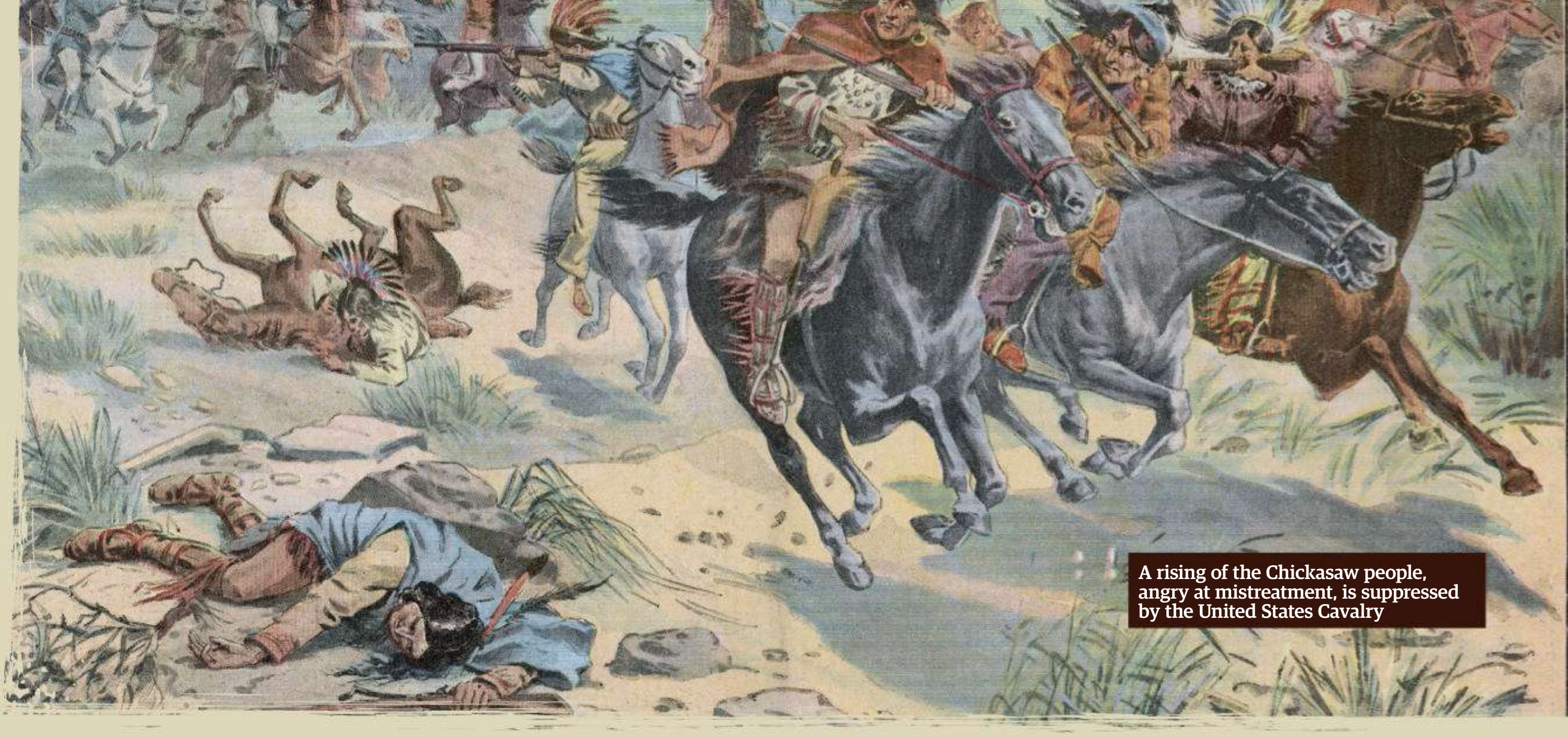
The Chickasaw's migration west began in 1837 and continued into the following year. Just under 5,000 Chickasaw made the journey, which was accomplished relatively successfully compared to the Trails of Tears the other four tribes endured. Instead, their privations began on arrival, when most Chickasaw, rather than gaining their own new district on former Choctaw land as arranged, were interned in temporary camps in Choctaw towns and government supply depots. Poverty, addiction, internal political disputes and attacks from other tribes were rife, and it would be another 15 years before they were finally settled in a dedicated Chickasaw territory.

The Chickasaw formally separated from the Choctaw, emerging as a new Chickasaw Nation in 1856. In the Civil War they joined the Confederacy. By 1907, following the defeat of the Five Tribes' petition for statehood, the Chickasaw were a powerless minority in their own lands. The 20th century saw a revival in their fortunes, however. They were officially recognised as a nation again in 1983.

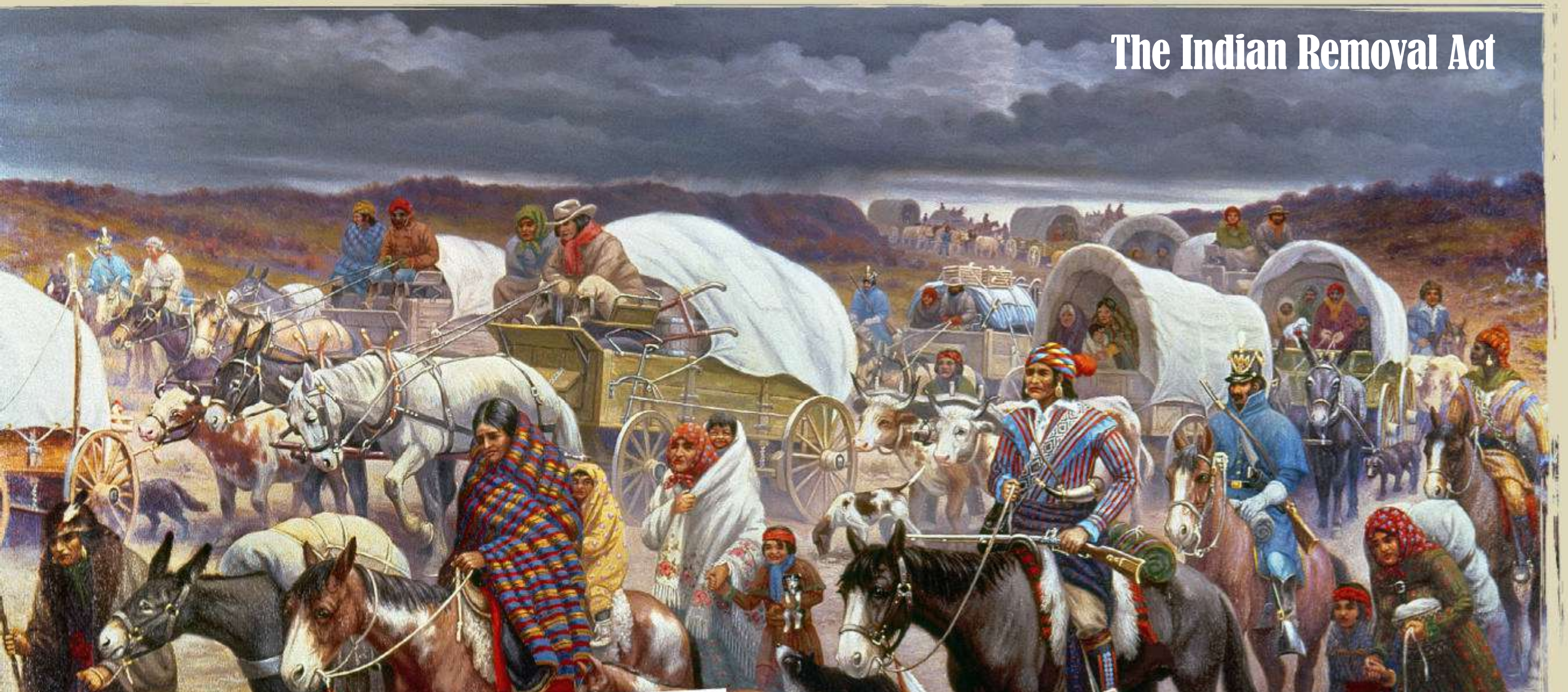


The Chickasaw Holmes Colbert represented the tribe politically after the Civil War

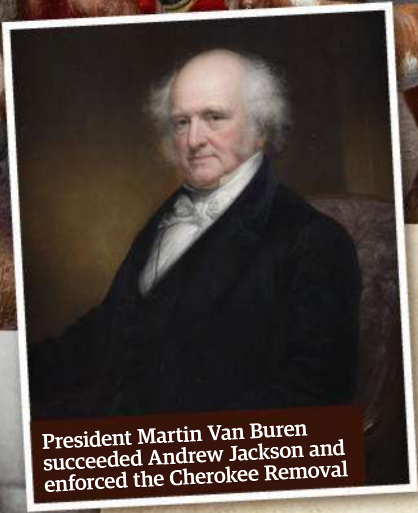
An unknown Chickasaw warrior, photographed in the 1880s



A rising of the Chickasaw people, angry at mistreatment, is suppressed by the United States Cavalry



The Cherokee are pictured here removing to the West



President Martin Van Buren succeeded Andrew Jackson and enforced the Cherokee Removal

THE CHEROKEE

Incursion on Indian land by European American settlers had always been due to its particular desirability, whether for perfect farming conditions, mineral deposits, or both. In the case of the Cherokee's land in Georgia, however, there was a very specific reason: gold. The Georgia Gold Rush, in which thousands of prospectors descended on Cherokee land in search of their fortune, began in 1829, preceding the more famous California Gold Rush by 20 years. The Cherokee, who had inhabited the land since prehistoric times, were quickly overwhelmed. The state of Georgia, far from supporting its indigenous people, was desperate to get them out of the way.

Even by the previous standards of the Indian Removal Act, the treaty that uprooted the Cherokee was dubious in its morality and legality. The Treaty of New Echota was accepted neither by the tribal leaders nor the majority of the Cherokee people but was nevertheless enforced in 1838 by Andrew Jackson's successor, Martin Van Buren. Sadly, a new president didn't mean a change in Native American fortunes. Having refused to recognise the terms of the deal, the Cherokee were first herded into internment camps for several months before being forcibly marched from their lands by militia troops. Twelve wagon trains, each comprising about 1,000 Cherokee, began the arduous trek in the winter of 1838. Their various routes encompassed trails through Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri. Most of the Cherokee travelled barefoot.

Malnutrition, disease, pneumonia and exposure were rife on the journey. The summer in the camps had been one of blistering heat and severe drought, and the winter of that year was freakishly cold, making progress brutally slow (the 60 miles between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers alone took three months). The risk of the Cherokee bringing sickness to populations meant their journey was made even longer than it might have been, since they were forbidden from passing through towns or settlements and had to go around them. When they reached the Ohio River they were charged a dollar a head by the ferryman, who usually only charged 12 cents. On the long wait to cross the river, many Cherokee died from exhaustion and starvation. Some were even murdered by locals.

The Cherokee finally reached their destination in Oklahoma in the early months of 1839. Between the internment camps and the journey itself, the estimated death toll was between 4,000 and 6,000.

Today, the Cherokee are the largest Native American group in the U.S., but the shameful ethnic cleansing of them and the other Civilised Tribes has not been forgotten. The 2,200-mile Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was opened in commemoration in 1987. The Five Tribes finally received a formal apology from the U.S. Government in 2008.

Elizabeth Brown Stephens was one of thousands of Cherokee on the Trail of Tears. This photograph was taken in 1903 when she was 82

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CALIFORNIA THE STATE MADE OF GOLD

How one man's accidental discovery of gold would go on to change the face of California forever

Alta California.
A RESTAURANT.
BOOK & JOB PRINTING
DRUGS & MEDICINES
WHOLESALE & RETAIL

The day started pretty much like any other for James W. Marshall. A foreman employed by John Sutter in Coloma, California, he went about his task of building a tailrace for a lumber mill he was constructing for Sutter. But 24 January 1848 was not destined to be an ordinary day. During his morning inspection Marshall noticed a piece of shiny metal. That shiny metal would turn out to be gold, and Marshall's discovery would lead to a gold rush that would last from 1848 to 1855.

You might imagine that such a find would have Sutter screaming from the rooftops with excitement, but the opposite was true. Sutter had dreams of building a vast agricultural empire, and he knew that if word got out that there was gold on his land his dream would be ruined. So he tried to keep the discovery quiet. His plan didn't work, however. Rumours started to circulate, and when businessman Samuel Brannan made the discovery public in May 1848, there was no putting the genie back into the bottle. And the news would only travel further: the *New York Herald* reported the discovery on 19 August 1848, followed by President James Polk discussing the gold in an address to Congress on 5 December 1848. It wasn't just the residents around California who wanted part of the action – by the beginning of 1849 the news had spread worldwide, causing people to gravitate west in the hope of getting rich.

The first gold-hunters to arrive were Californians, with entire families making the journey to try to gather as much gold as possible. In the beginning, the job was relatively easy. Tectonic forces had pushed minerals (i.e. gold) to the surface of the Sierra Nevada, water carried it downstream, and it finally settled in gravel beds along rivers and streams. This meant that gold could be found by panning in

San Francisco became a boomtown, with new businesses springing up to cater for the influx of people streams or even just picking the flakes and nuggets out by hand.

The reward for the early prospectors was great. They were able to collect large amounts of gold pretty easily – even complete amateurs could gather enough to change their lives. It is thought that average daily gold finds were worth between ten and 15 times the daily wage of a labourer.

Early prospectors also benefitted from the odd legal situation of California. In 1848, California was technically part of Mexico, but under American occupation (as part of the Mexican-American War). Although the war had ended in early 1848, causing California to become part of the U.S., nothing was formal. So California was in a kind of limbo – residents existed with a gumbo of Mexican, U.S. and local rulings. The goldfields were theoretically on public land, but without any executive or judicial body to enforce this, it was essentially a free for all. Prospectors adapted Mexican mining law, where a prospector could claim a piece of land, but the claim only stood for as long as the land was being mined. Add the fact there were no taxes or licensing fees and Californian gold became a very attractive proposition.

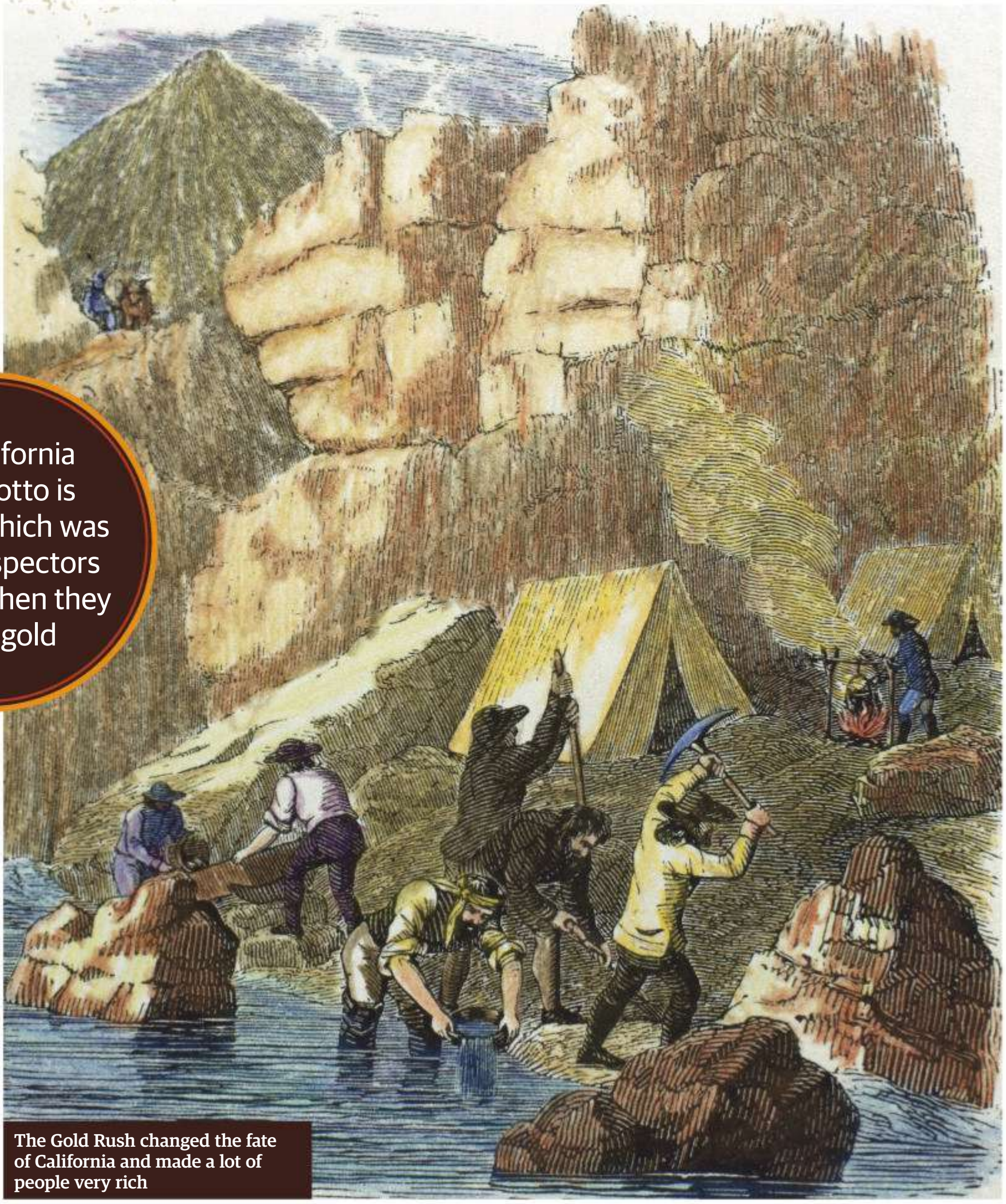
The California state motto is Eureka!, which was what prospectors shouted when they found gold

Although 1848 had certainly seen a sizeable number of people arrive looking for gold, 1849 saw the numbers explode. All of the people around the world who had heard the news finally began arriving, from pretty much everywhere you could imagine. These settlers earned the name '49ers', and they changed the face of California forever.

Most were American, with tens of thousands travelling by wagon train, riverboats or any method they could arrange. But it wasn't just Americans. Eager prospectors from China, Germany, France, Italy, Britain, Australia and New Zealand arrived. Approximately 90,000 people made their way to California in 1849, around 40,000 of whom were from other countries. While the rewards were great upon arrival, for many, even the Americans, the journey came at great cost. For a start, most prospectors had to borrow money or use their life savings to get to California. The mainly male gold-hunters had to leave their family to fend for themselves, with women being left behind to raise children on their own and take on all the tasks their husbands would have been responsible for.

But the rewards were worth it – if the miners got there early enough. While the gold deposits in rivers were unbelievably plentiful, tens of thousands of hands soon depleted the easy treasure. By 1850, most of the gold that amateurs could find had been taken, meaning more complex mining methods had to be adopted. This included techniques such as 'coyoteing', which involved digging six- to 13-metre-deep shafts along a stream, with tunnels being dug in all directions to access deep gold deposits. Alternatively, entire rivers would be diverted to access the gold at the bottom of the exposed river bed. By 1851, miners had also moved on to blasting areas to access rocks containing gold.

The hunt for gold had turned from being like taking candy from a baby to a far more nuanced and expensive procedure. It must have been soul-destroying to finally arrive in California after using



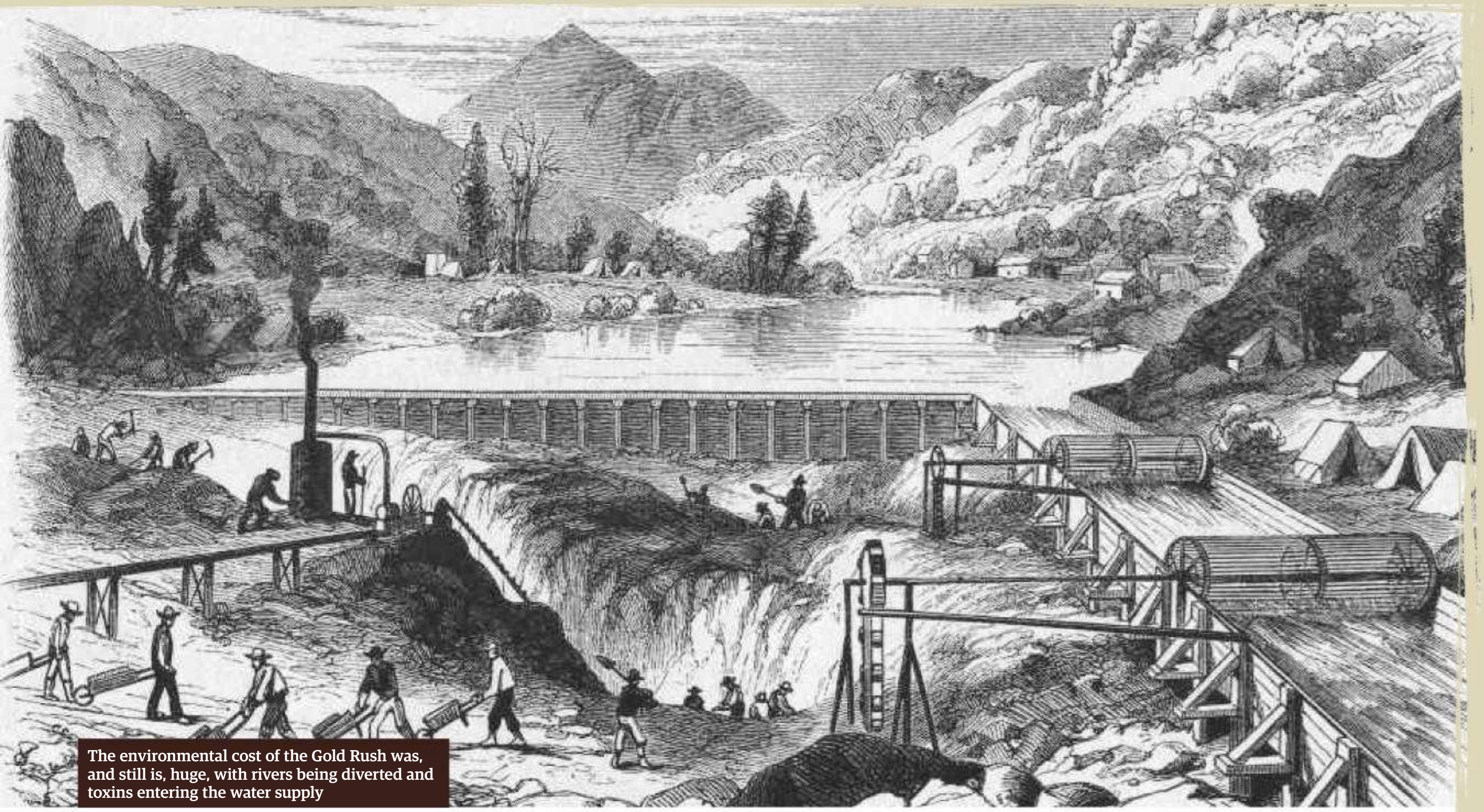
The Gold Rush changed the fate of California and made a lot of people very rich

THE FIRST GOLD RUSH MILLIONAIRE

It seems right that one of the first people to publicise the Gold Rush should also be one of its greatest beneficiaries. Samuel Brannan had many strings to his bow, but the most important in terms of the Gold Rush was businessman and journalist. He founded the *California Star* newspaper in San Francisco and was one of the first to spread the word about the discovery of gold. It wasn't just because of the love of a good story: in fact he couldn't print the story because all of his newspaper staff had left to mine gold. But as owner of the only store between San Francisco and the goldfields, he bought all the gold mining supplies he could find and then ran around San Francisco shouting, "Gold! Gold on the American River!" to drum up business. Some reports claim that after paying 20 cents per pan he sold them for $15 each, making $36,000 in nine weeks.

Brannan's good fortune didn't last, however. When his wife divorced him he had to liquidate most of his real estate to pay her half of their assets. He died a poor man in 1889.

Brannan used some savvy business decisions to make his fortune



The environmental cost of the Gold Rush was, and still is, huge, with rivers being diverted and toxins entering the water supply

all of your money to make the journey, only to find that you had to have professional mining skills to get any gold. The disappointment turned to hostility and then to blame. American gold-hunters looked around and saw people from all over the world stealing what they saw as their gold. To try to put travellers off, the Foreign Miners Tax was introduced in 1850, which charged each foreign miner a fee of $20 a month.

Still, violent attacks erupted, most notably towards Chinese miners. While only a few hundred had made the journey in 1849 and 1850, more than 20,000 landed in San Francisco in 1852. But whatever irrational fear the white Americans had of the Chinese coming to take over their land, the truth was most of them simply wanted to get as much gold as they could before returning home to China.

John Sutter's fears of the gold destroying his agricultural dreams were well founded. His workers left and his crops were stolen

Some individuals made a decent amount of money from the California Gold Rush, while others made an obscene amount of money, but one of the biggest winners was California.

At the start of the Gold Rush, California hadn't yet been awarded the honour of statehood. When Marshall found that tiny piece of gold in 1848, California was a dusty ex-Mexican territory with a small population and little hope. But the immigrants and gold that emerged as a result of the Gold Rush meant that California became one of only a handful of American states to be instantly awarded statehood, in 1850. But while California benefitted greatly from the discovery of gold, it was the city of San Francisco that really reaped the rewards.

In 1848, when the gold was first discovered, San Francisco had roughly 1,000 residents. At first the discovery did nothing for the city – in fact it turned it into a ghost town because people fled to get themselves some gold. But then it became a boomtown. As people and merchants arrived, the number of residents escalated to 25,000 by the start of 1850. To meet the needs of the arrivals, new businesses sprung up, including saloons, brothels and boarding houses.

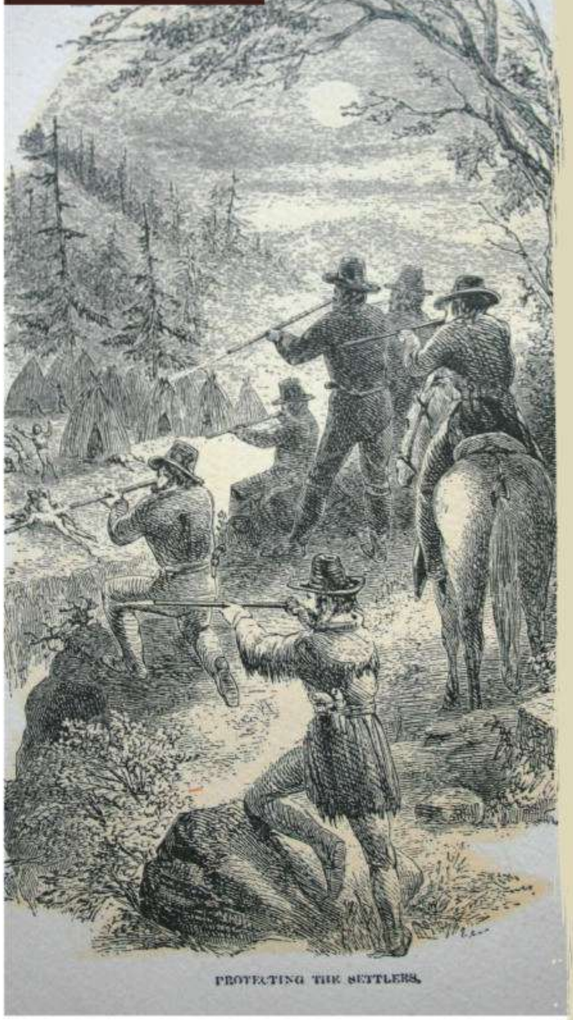
San Francisco became the metropolis of the Gold Rush era. Infrastructure was quickly taken care of, specifically focusing on improving transportation between California and the East Coast. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company started a regular route from San Francisco to Panama. Passengers would take the new Panama Railway (finished in 1855) across the Isthmus of Panama and then get on steamships destined for the East Coast.

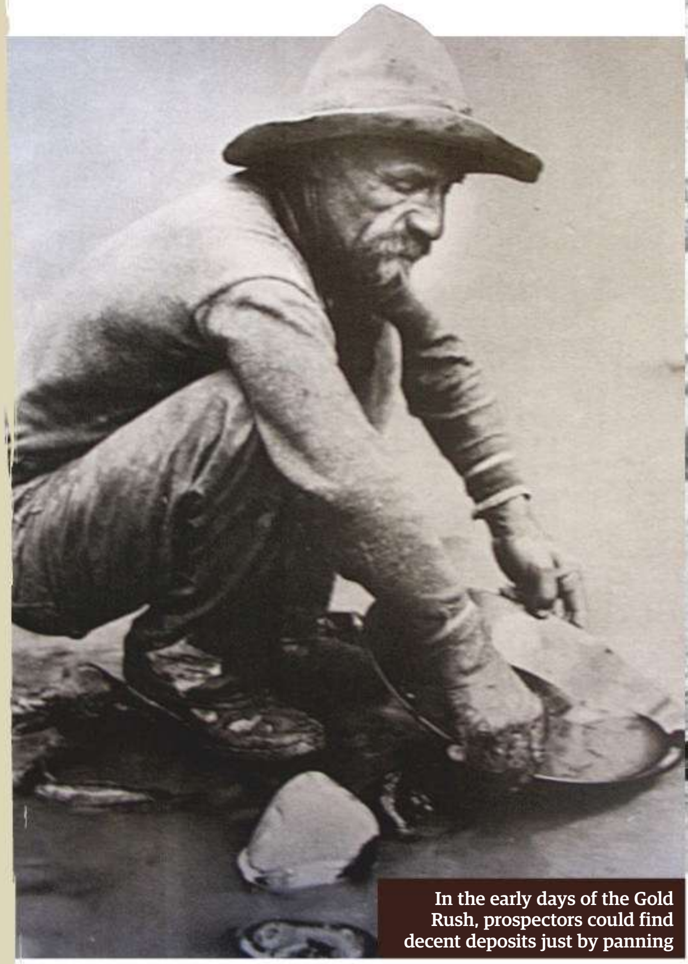
But it wasn't just infrastructure that blossomed. Roads were built, as were churches and schools. Agriculture began on a large scale to try to meet the needs of the new settlers. In fact, for many, agriculture became the real treasure of the Gold Rush. As gold supplies slowly dwindled, those who put their time and money into agriculture profited from all the people who had travelled to and then stayed in California.

Unfortunately, the elevation of some was made on the backs of others. In the case of the Gold Rush, there were two main groups who suffered – the average miner and the Indigenous people – while the mining also took a toll on the local environment.

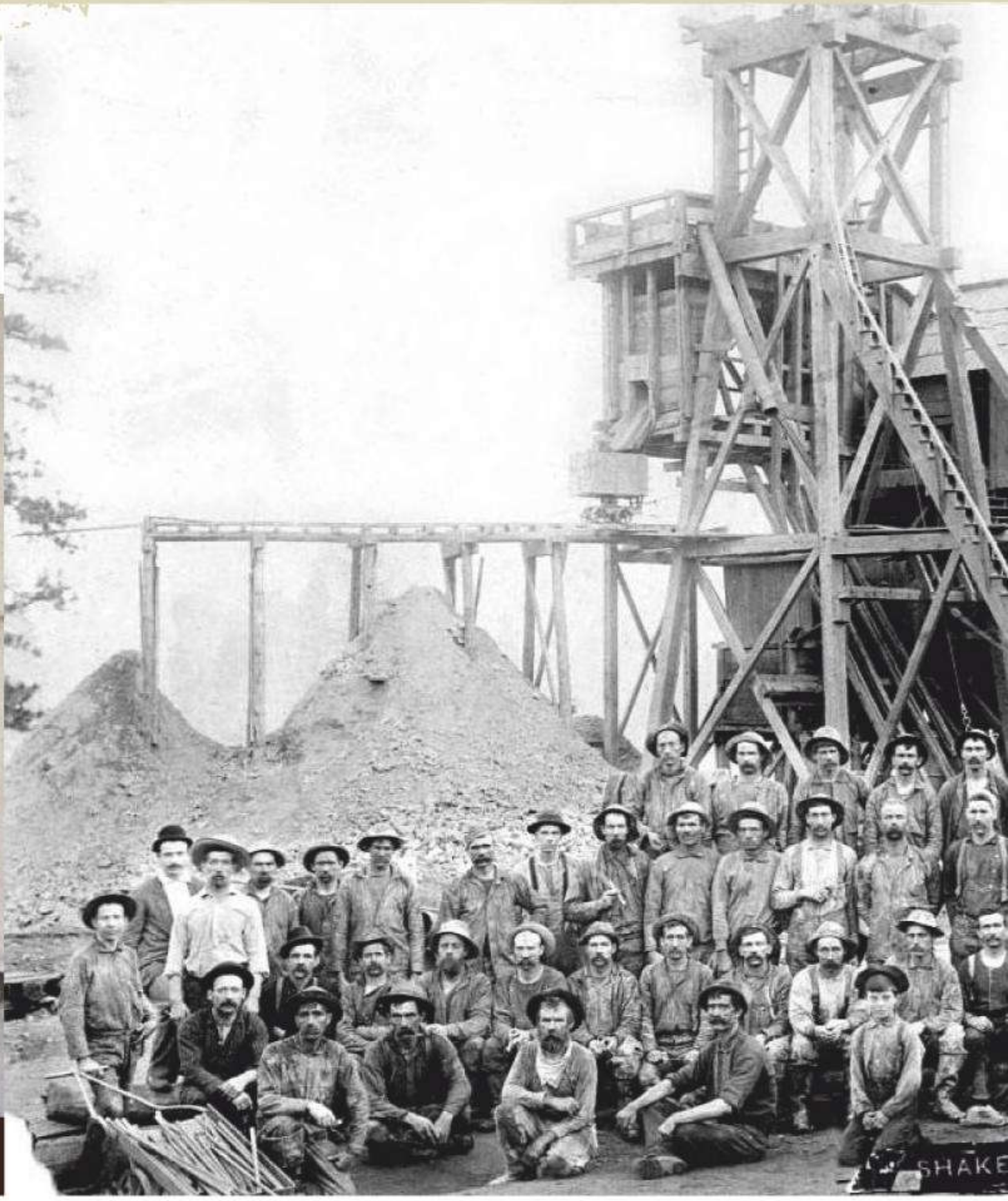
While it is true that early prospectors made a good profit from their gold-hunting efforts, from late 1851 onwards it was getting more and more difficult for the average man to make any money. Gold companies and their CEOs were the ones to benefit from what was left, simply because more and more extravagant machinery and manpower was needed to reach the gold. Most of the late arrivals made little to no money, with scores more actually making a loss. Not only did they have to compete against the

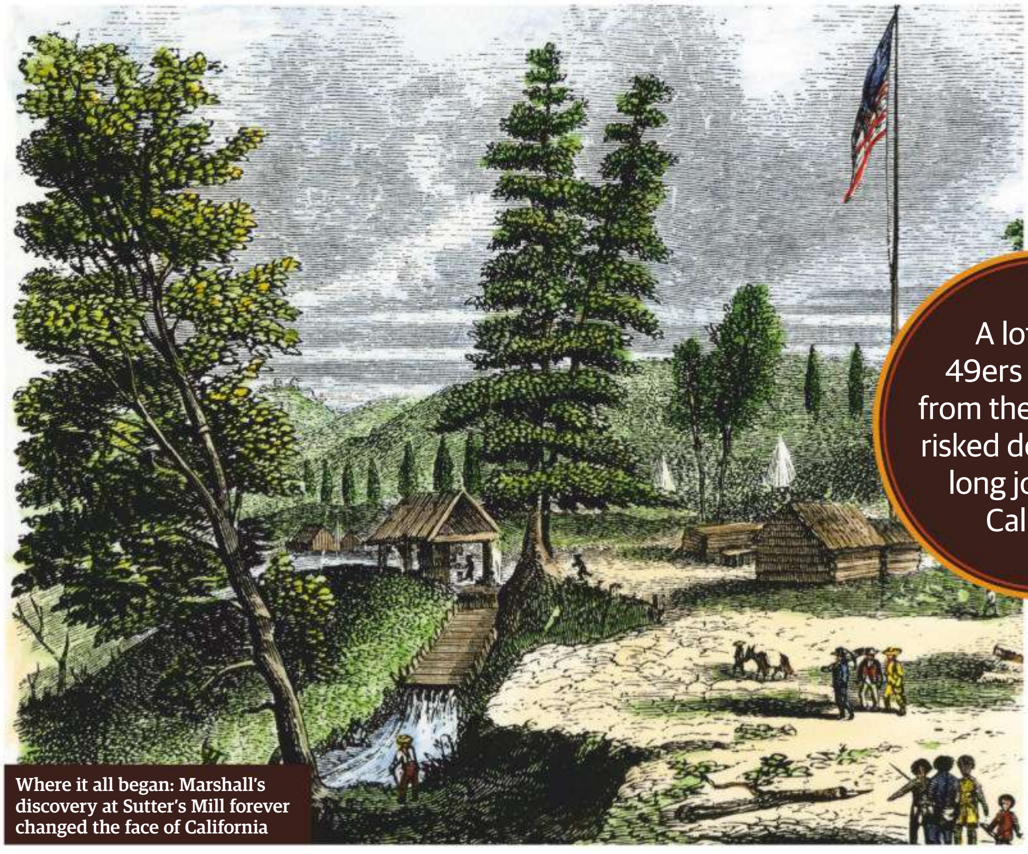
This illustration by J. R. Browne shows the typical stance taken towards the Native Americans – exterminate


PROTECTING THE SETTLERS.



In the early days of the Gold Rush, prospectors could find decent deposits just by panning





Where it all began: Marshall's discovery at Sutter's Mill forever changed the face of California

thousands and thousands of hopefuls arriving from all over the world, but merchants were raising the prices of mining equipment to extortionate rates. It is thought that a miner would need to find an ounce of gold every single day to break even. And that was for the white miners. If you happened to be foreign, the Foreign Miners Tax meant it was even harder to make money, let alone a living.

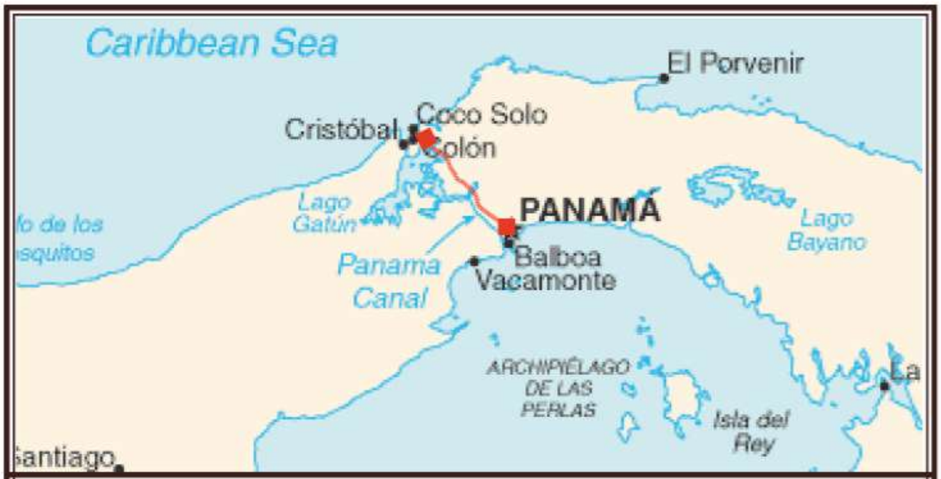
By 1855, it was practically impossible for a lone miner to find any gold. The mining methods required to reach what gold remained could only be achieved by medium to large groups of miners. As gold became harder to find, the methods of finding it became more destructive, which had a lasting impact on California's environment. Where the miners would initially use pans, as the gold became harder to locate they would instead build massive dredgers for the rivers and streams. Water cannons would blast the side of hills to try to expose gold. Then there were the mines themselves, each shaft created by indiscriminately blasting out tons and tons of stone.

> A lot of the 49ers travelling from the East Coast risked death on the long journey to California

Hydraulic mining became popular in the 1850s and caused irreparable damage to the landscape. This consisted of a hose directing a high-pressure jet of water at gravel beds. The gravel, and hopefully the gold within it, would then pass over sluices,

SPEAR M. & M. CO
WES

Miners of the Shakespeare Mining & Milling Co., 1860



CARVING OUT ROUTES

Travelling to the gold fields was a major undertaking for most people. In terms of American travel, it was the journey from the East Coast to the 'Golden State' that led to the building of some serious infrastructure. For early gold-seekers making the journey from east to west, there were only two routes to choose from. They could take the Oregon-California Trail, travelling in covered wagons. This route involved rugged terrain and some decidedly hostile territories. It took about six months.

The other option was via sea. Again, taking six months, eager prospectors would sail from New York, down to South America, and then on to San Diego or San Francisco. Sitting on a boat watching the world go by might sound appealing, but this was no luxury cruise. Travellers endured seasickness and intense boredom as well as food infested with insects. They also had to pay a significant amount for the privilege.

Neither of these routes were suitable for the important business of finding gold, so in 1850 the Panama Railway was planned. Built by private American companies, it cut across the Isthmus of Panama and was the world's first transcontinental railroad. More importantly, it slashed months off the journey.

where the gold would settle on the bottom. The problem with this method of mining is that it caused pollutants such as gravel, silt and metals to wash into streams and rivers. It also clogged waterways in the vicinity, harming agriculture across the Central Valley. This caused tension between miners and farmers, which was resolved in 1884 with the Sawyer Decision, which called for an end to hydraulic mining. However, to this day there are still areas downstream of old hydraulic mines that aren't able to support plant life.

A lot of the mining methods also released toxic substances into the environment, specifically mercury, which was used to extract gold from quartz and stone. Environmentalists are studying the damage caused to the water, with the United States Geological Survey finding unsafe levels of mercury in fish from Nevada County.

As well as the damage caused by the actual mines, the processes put in place to keep the mines going were just as destructive. For example, water was needed in the dry months, so dams were created, changing the course of rivers. Wood was needed to work the boilers at the mines, in addition to building all the artificial canal systems. This created a logging industry, which set about tearing through California's forests. But as horrendous as all of this is, the environmental damage pales in comparison to what happened to the Native Americans.

There are some phenomenal statistics when it comes to the California Gold Rush – from the 300,000 people who arrived looking for gold, to the estimated 370 tons of gold extracted in the first five years of the Gold Rush, worth tens of billions of U.S. dollars in today's prices. Then there are the 100,000 Native Americans who died between 1848 and 1868, in what is known as the 'California Genocide'.

Problems started pretty quickly. The vast swathes of people descending on California pushed the Native Americans out of traditional hunting areas. Fearing for their homes, they would attack miners, only to then suffer revenge attacks on their villages. The miners had guns, so any Native American in the area would inevitably be slaughtered. Surviving an attack didn't mean you were saved, though. Because the miners had taken over traditional hunting spots, any survivors were likely to starve.

But even if a village wasn't directly targeted by miners, the silt and chemicals entering the environment as a result of mining killed fish and ruined many natural habitats vital for the Native's existence. Land was taken by farmers to help feed the miners, making it even harder for the Native Americans to survive.

The attitude towards Native Americans was absolutely brutal. The miners didn't see them as people, but as something that threatened profit, and so they would simply eliminate them.

In 1850, the California Legislature passed the Act for the Government and Protection of Indians, an act that while suggesting it would protect Native Americans, actually made it legal for settlers to use them essentially as slaves, to adopt Native children and also prevent any Native American from testifying against a non-Native.

California's first governor, Peter Burnett, did absolutely nothing to try to help the situation, his opinion being that what was essentially government-sanctioned genocide was all part of God's plan. He viewed the tensions between settlers and Native Americans as inevitable, leaving the Natives with two options – leave or die. The state even funded death squads, made up of vigilantes, soldiers, miners and others, to hunt and kill Native Americans.

Despite the clear damage done to the Native American population during this time, and the apparent lack of caring on the part of the state, the government of California has recorded that only 4,500 Native Americans suffered violent deaths between 1849 and 1870.

Like many other major events in the history of the Wild West, the Native Americans suffered the consequences of the white man trying to make a better life for himself, settlers who happily stepped on the Natives' rights in search of a profit.

Chinese miners would melt gold and use it to create ordinary household goods to disguise their wealth from robbers

© Wikimedia Commons, Alamy

BLOOD & GOLD: THE HELLS CANYON MASSACRE

BY DREW SLEEP

In 1887, 34 Chinese gold miners were murdered in one of the most brutal acts of violence against Asian settlers in the United States

Many Chinese settlers counted themselves among those hoping to find their fortune in the U.S. Eastern labourers in particular secured the favour of mining and railroad companies as they typically worked for less money than their white counterparts – who accused the Chinese of taking their jobs. Meanwhile, Chinese prospectors flocked to the States to harvest American gold and in some cases send it back to China. This inevitably led to an anti-Asian sentiment among white Americans, and eastern immigrants found themselves subject to hostility in their new home. In 1885, tensions between white and Chinese coal miners in Rock Springs, Wyoming, led to a bloodbath, with 28 Chinese miners killed and their neighbourhood torched into an inferno.

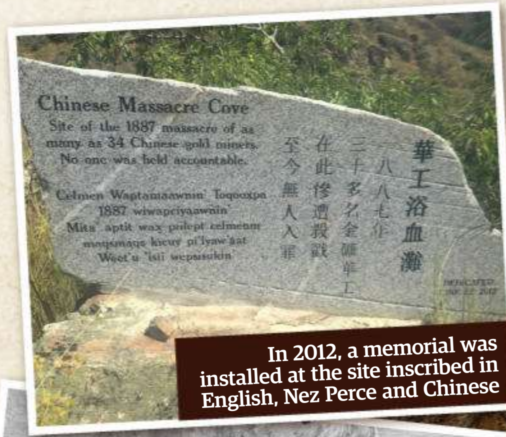
Two years later, the Chinese suffered tragedy once again on American soil when a cohort of 34 gold miners from Lewiston were murdered at Snake River in Oregon between 27 and 28 May. The group, which was working for the Sam Yup Company based in San Francisco, had sailed 65 miles up the Snake River in the hopes of finding Flour Gold – a fine form of the metal often found in water near gold deposits. Once encamped in the remote Hells Canyon, the miners got to work.

Down by the river, however, the Chinese labourers were exposed to prying eyes from raised vantage points, and sure enough they were ambushed and gunned down. One miner managed to attempt an escape, but he was chased down and bludgeoned to death. The murderers then mutilated the bodies, discarded them into the river, stole whatever gold dust the Chinese had harvested and fled.

Over the next couple of weeks bodies started drifting downstream towards Lewiston. Another group of Chinese miners journeyed to the Hells Canyon site, discovered the brutal scene of the crime and alerted the authorities. While an investigation by local law enforcement drew a blank, the Sam Yup Company ordered its own investigation by hiring local judge Joseph K. Vincent, who identified the killers as seven white horse thieves.

In March 1888, Frank Vaughn, one of the killers responsible for the massacre, confessed to his involvement and agreed to testify, enabling a grand jury to indict six of his conspirators for murder: Bruce Evans, Titus Canfield, Robert McMillan, Hezekiah Hughes, Hiram Maynard and Homer LaRue. Vaughn, McMillan and Hughes were found not guilty after a two-day trial, while the rest of the gang fled.

The story lay buried and untold until 1995, when Charlotte McIver, the county clerk of Wallowa County, discovered documents that recounted the bloody events of 1887. In 2012, a memorial was installed on the site on the banks of Snake River, listing the ten known victims and finally giving them a voice after 125 years.


Chinese Massacre Cove
Site of the 1887 massacre of as many as 34 Chinese gold miners. No one was held accountable.
華工浴血灘
一八八七年
三十多名金礦華工
在此慘遭殺戮
至今無人入罪

In 2012, a memorial was installed at the site inscribed in English, Nez Perce and Chinese

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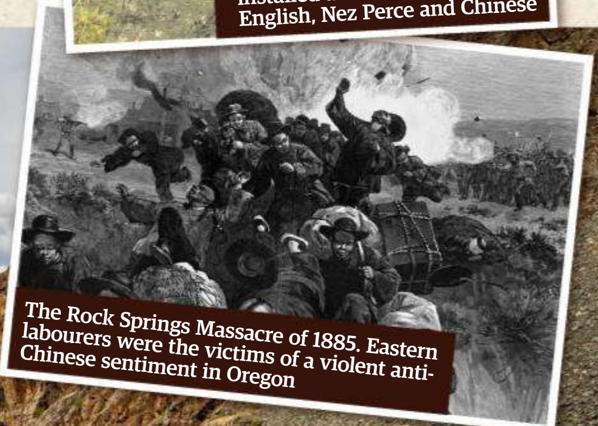

The Rock Springs Massacre of 1885. Eastern labourers were the victims of a violent anti-Chinese sentiment in Oregon

In 2005 the site of the bloody crime was renamed 'Chinese Massacre Cove'

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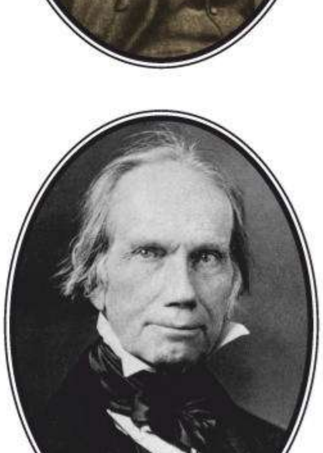
HOW THE PATH to the WEST LED TO WAR

As the United States spread westward, one question divided the nation: would the new states be slave states or free states?



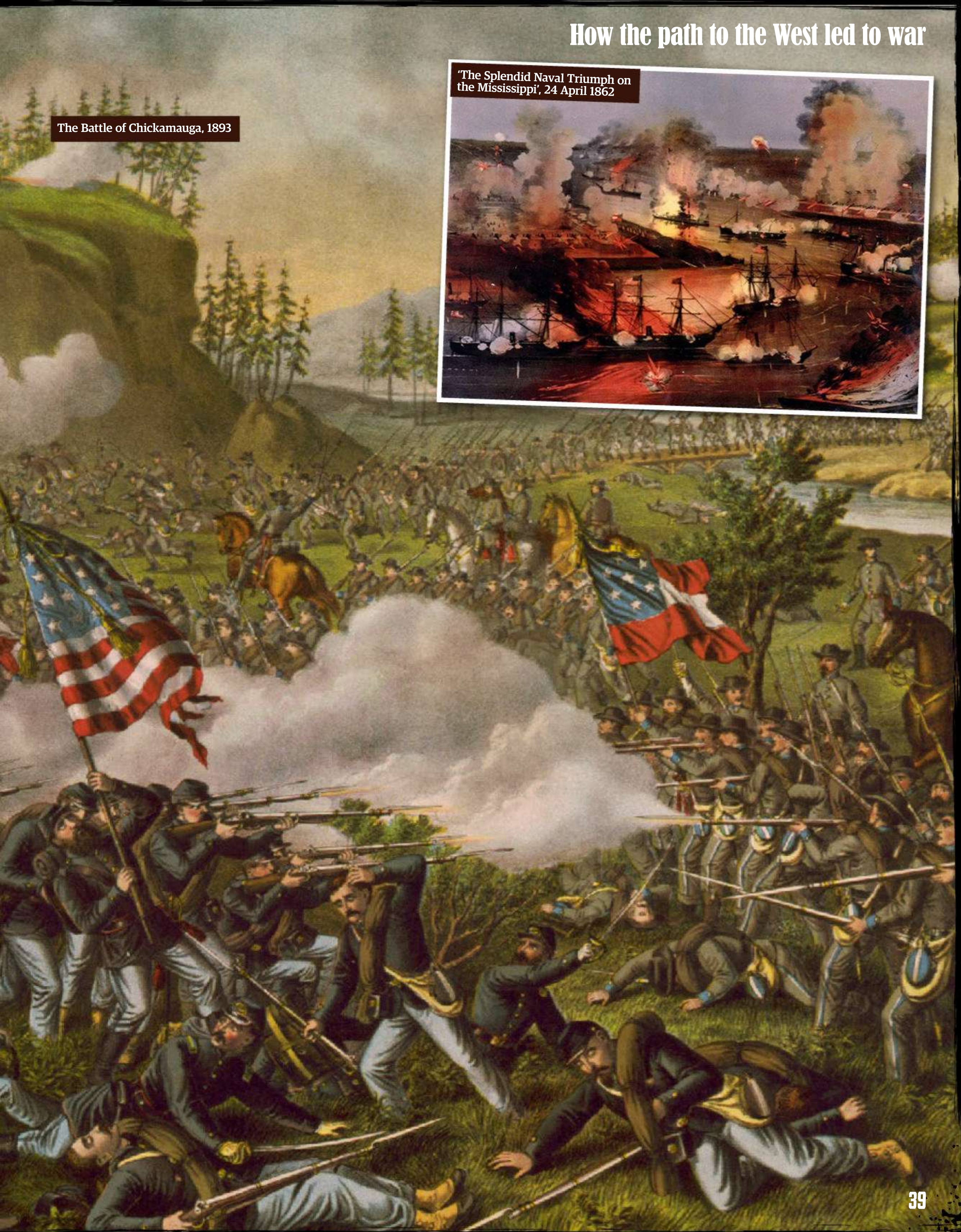
Above: The abolitionist John Brown, pictured in 1859, not long before the raid on Harper's Ferry

Right: Henry Clay, the man who brokered the Missouri Compromise

From the dawn of the 19th century America had been divided. Divided culturally, politically, geographically, even religiously about the issue of slavery. But the Union had been preserved by the division being equal. Half the 22 states comprising the United States were free states and half were slave states. But when Missouri petitioned to join the Union in 1819 as a slave state, that delicate balance came under threat.

Missouri was part of the Louisiana Purchase. This was when, in 1803, the United States (at the time the country ran roughly south from the western edge of the Great Lakes) bought a vast tract of land from France. To give an idea of just how big the Louisiana Purchase was, it doubled the size of the United States, adding 828 million square miles to the republic's territory (that's nearly four times the area of Britain). The new territory was bounded by the Mississippi River in the east, the Rocky Mountains in the west, Canada in the north and the Gulf of Mexico in the south. It was huge.

What would later become the state of Missouri was a part of the Purchase, and when it had passed the population threshold it applied for admittance to the United States. As a new state, it would be entitled to two senators in the Senate, thus upsetting the balance between free and slave states. As rancour grew between the opposing sides, Henry Clay, the speaker of the House of Representatives, brokered a compromise whereby Missouri entered the Union as a slave state but, at the same time, so did Maine as a free state. Thus the balance would be maintained. But, critically, the bill as passed also decreed that



The Battle of Chickamauga, 1893

'The Splendid Naval Triumph on the Mississippi', 24 April 1862 slavery should not be allowed north of the line of latitude at 36˚30' (36.5 degrees), with the exception of Missouri, whereas any future states south of this line would be slave states. Thus slavery was extended westwards, with the same North/South divide remaining in place.

Although the Missouri Compromise paved a way forward for the states, a number of American statesmen could see it sowed the seeds for future conflict. John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, wrote in his diary, "Take it for granted that the present is a mere preamble – a title page to a great, tragic volume."

The idea of Manifest Destiny, that it was America's duty to spread west, found its greatest support among Democrats

The issue came to the fore once more in 1849 when California petitioned to join the Union. The territory's population had rocketed following the discovery of gold in 1848, drawing in people from both the free states, who called themselves free-soilers, and the slave states, who adopted the label Chivs (short for chivalry). Such were the continuing tensions in California over the issue that even when it joined the Union in 1850 as a free state, nine years later two of its most eminent political representatives, Senator David Broderick and ex-Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court David Terry, fought a duel over their political disagreements on the issue. The men had once been friends but had fallen out over the issue of slavery. Terry, the advocate of slavery, had taken the precaution to practise beforehand with the weapons they would be using for the duel, two Belgian .58-calibre pistols. Broderick, the free-soiler, had not.

Come the duel, Broderick's gun misfired just before the final count. Hearing the count up to three, and with his gun already having fired, Broderick made no effort to move but stood tall. Terry, knowing that his opponent had already shot, had the option to fire to miss. He didn't. He shot Broderick square in the chest. The senator died three days later. "They killed me because I am opposed to the extension of slavery and a corrupt administration," he said on his death bed.

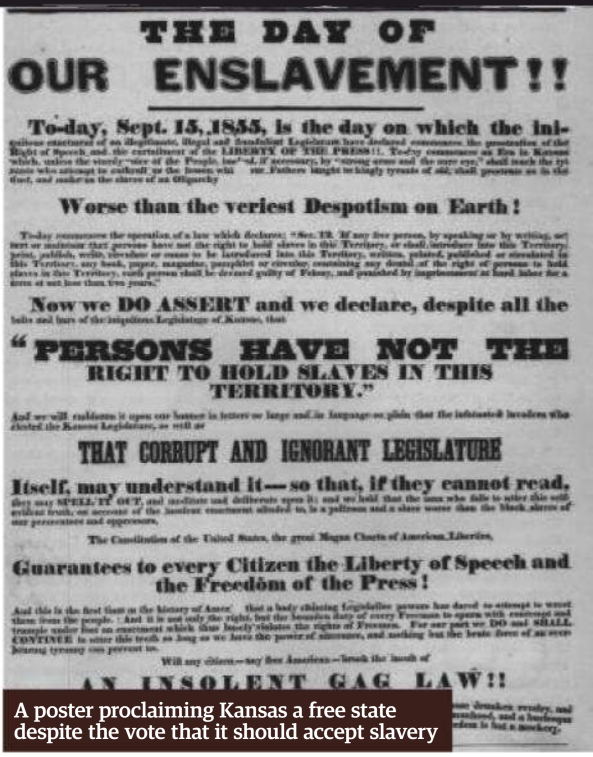
Tensions between free and slave states deepened in the decade following California's accession in 1850 as a free state. To mollify the slave states, Congress had agreed that while California would be free, the people of the New Mexico and Utah territories would decide whether they would be slave or free states. The compromise also required that people in free states help to capture runaway slaves. This led to a considerable heightening of tension between free and slave states, as both took up opposing positions on the moral high ground, the people of free states objecting to being co-opted as slave-catchers while those in slave states saw their northern brethren as flouting the law.

As America expanded westwards, the issue of whether the states petitioning for accession to the Union should be slave or free came up more and more frequently. Just four years after California's accession, Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas made another attempt at a solution. As slave states had no interest in allowing new free states into the Union, the westward expansion of the United States had stopped at the Mississippi River. To get it going again, he proposed a new bill, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which decreed that popular sovereignty would decide the issue of whether these new states should be free or slave. Many of Douglas' fellow Democrats saw this as a ploy to expand slavery and they began to join with other politicians into what would become the Republican Party, united by its opposition to slavery.

What's more, when delegates came to be elected in Kansas to decide whether the state would be free or slave, the votes were skewed by people crossing the border from Missouri to vote for Kansas becoming a slave state. Indeed, so widespread was the fraud that two votes were cast for every registered voter. Thus, the Kansas legislature passed pro-slavery laws. But so outraged were free state-supporting Kansans at this fraud that they began to arm themselves, creating a parallel legislature, while increasingly violent confrontations broke out between free staters and slavery supporters, who called themselves the Law and Order Party. It was a nasty conflict in which neither side was blameless. In revenge for a murder, free staters burned and terrorised pro-slavery settlers before being themselves pursued and surrounded in the town of Lawrence. In the ensuing siege, abolitionist women smuggled guns to the besieged free staters hidden in their petticoats. The siege was called off in the midst of a cold winter, but when the slavery supporters returned to Lawrence in the spring, they burned the Free State Hotel and threw the press of the abolitionist paper, *The Herald Of Freedom*, into the river. Back in the east, Republican-supporting papers wrote this up as the 'Sack of Lawrence'.

Northern farmers did not necessarily object to slavery, but they did not want to compete with low-cost slave farms

One abolitionist, a man named John Brown (1800–1859), on his way to help in the defence of Lawrence, heard that he was too late, but, enraged by the events, he led a party of men to Pottawatomie Creek where they murdered five



THE DAY OF
OUR ENSLAVEMENT!!

To-day, Sept. 15, 1855, is the day on which the ini-

Worse than the veriest Despotism on Earth!

Now we DO ASSERT and we declare, despite all the

"PERSONS HAVE NOT THE RIGHT TO HOLD SLAVES IN THIS TERRITORY."

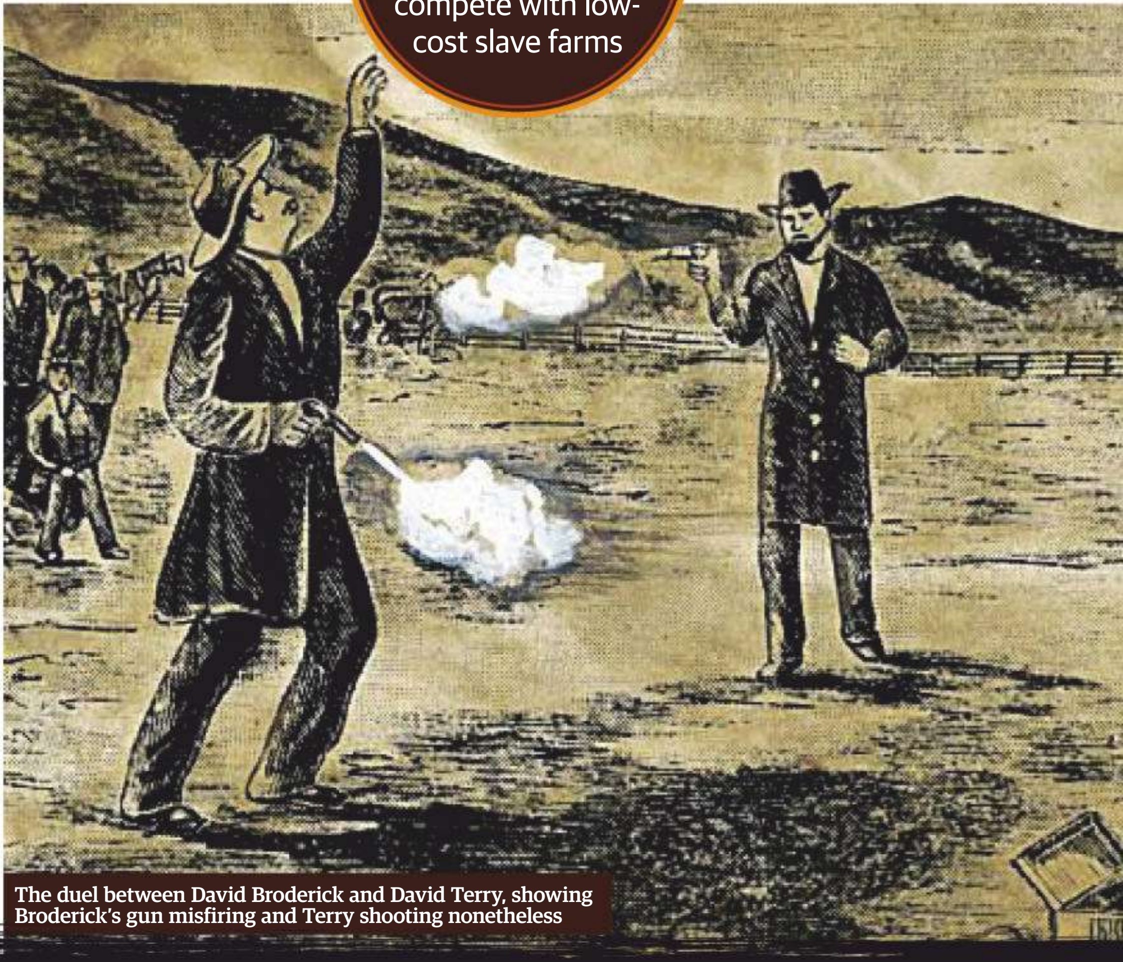
THAT CORRUPT AND IGNORANT LEGISLATURE

Itself, may understand it—so that, if they cannot read,

Guarantees to every Citizen the Liberty of Speech and the Freedom of the Press!

AN INSOLENT GAG LAW!!

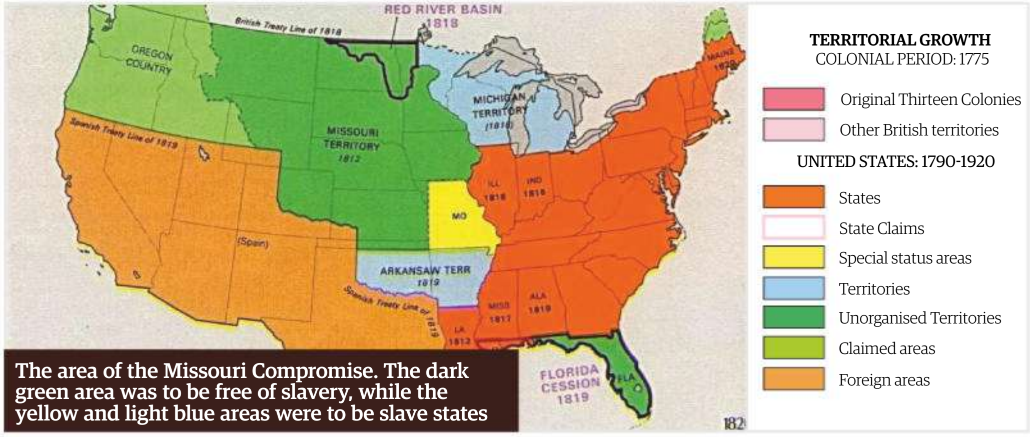
A poster proclaiming Kansas a free state despite the vote that it should accept slavery



The duel between David Broderick and David Terry, showing Broderick's gun misfiring and Terry shooting nonetheless pro-slavery settlers. After what came to be called the Pottawatomie Massacre, Brown took up guerilla tactics and fought in several bloody skirmishes against pro-slavery militias. Some historians consider these small battles the first of the Civil War.

With the notoriety that Brown had acquired through his actions in Kansas, he was able to gather funds for his attack on Harper's Ferry in West Virginia, where he hoped to gain arms to raise a general slave revolt. The raid failed, and Brown was captured, tried and hanged for treason. The attack so inflamed passions on either side that it all but made war inevitable. On the morning of his execution, Brown wrote, "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood."

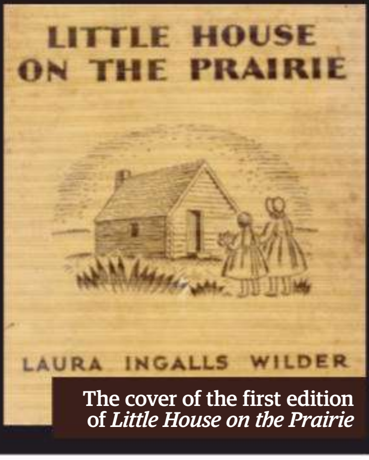
Within 18 months, the American Civil War began. As for the West itself, the Civil War and its aftermath transformed it. In particular, three acts signed into law by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 were to prove transformative: the Homestead Act (for which see the box), the Pacific Railway Act, which facilitated the first transcontinental railroad, and the Morrill Act, which provided federal land to states to fund agricultural colleges, which went on to train generations of ranchers and farmers. With these laws in place, all the foundations had been laid to 'win' the West. For its Native American inhabitants, it meant the loss of ancestral lands, but many newly freed slaves found homes there, settling in towns such as Nicodemus, Kansas. In the end, the Civil War not only bound North and South together, but it also brought the West into communion with the rest of the United States. The tragedy is that it required over 600,000 lives to reach this accommodation.


RED RIVER BASIN 1818
British Treaty Line of 1818
OREGON COUNTRY
MISSOURI TERRITORY 1812
MICHIGAN TERRITORY (1818)
MAINE 1820
Spanish Treaty Line of 1819
(Spain)
MO
ILL 1818
IND 1816
ARKANSAW TERR 1819
MISS 1817
ALA 1819
LA 1812
FLORIDA CESSION 1819
FLA
TERRITORIAL GROWTH
COLONIAL PERIOD: 1775
Original Thirteen Colonies
Other British territories
UNITED STATES: 1790-1920
States
State Claims
Special status areas
Territories
Unorganised Territories
Claimed areas
Foreign areas

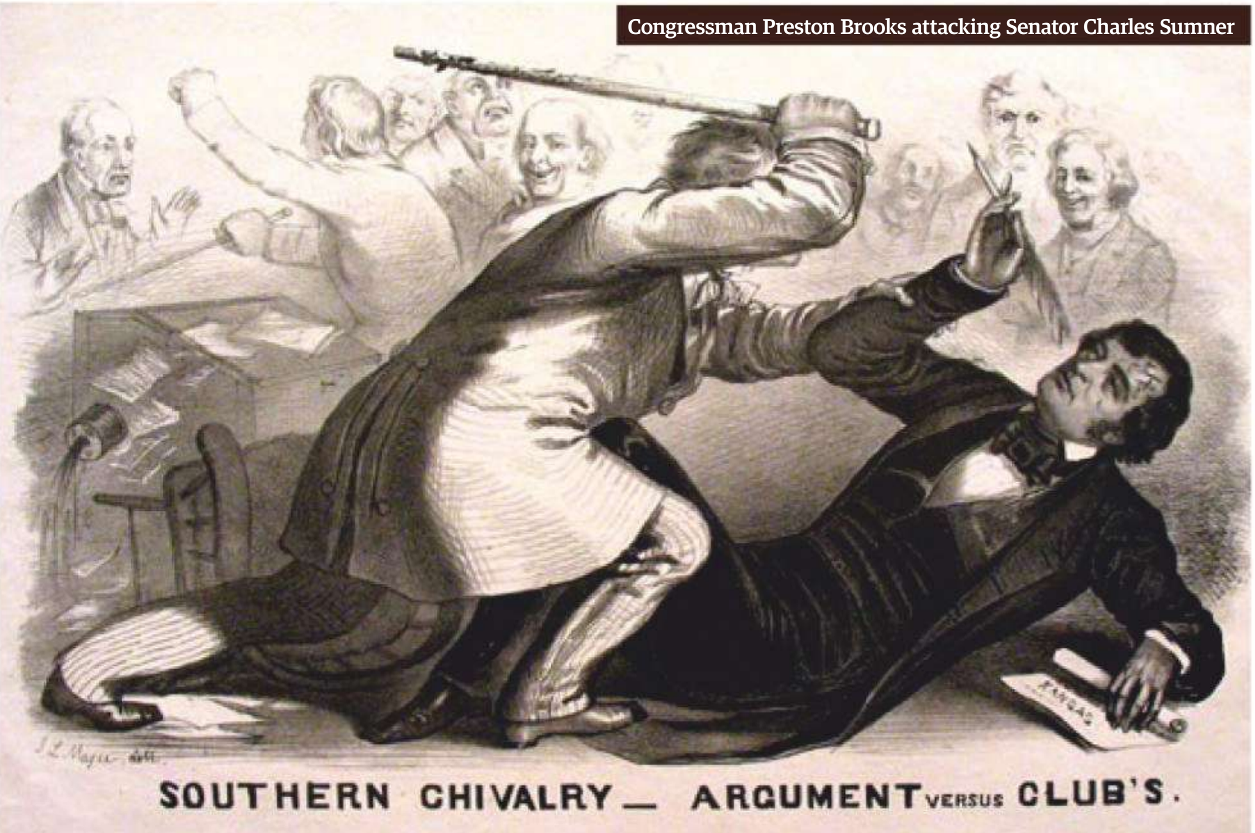
The area of the Missouri Compromise. The dark green area was to be free of slavery, while the yellow and light blue areas were to be slave states

LOTS OF HOUSES ON THE PRAIRIE

The stories behind the famous *Little House* book series were the direct result of the Homestead Act. President Lincoln signed it into law on 20 May 1862 and by its statute it allowed 160 acres of unclaimed public land to any citizen, or an immigrant intending to become a citizen, in return for a small filing fee. To gain final title on the land, the claimant had either to build a house on the land, plant crops and remain living there for five years continuously; or they could buy the land for $1.25 per acre after living on it for six months, so long as they had built a house and planted crops in that time. Between the signing of the act in 1862 and 1900, more than 80 million acres was distributed to people moving west and building their houses on the prairies of the American West. Among them were the Ingalls family, who moved to Montgomery County, Kansas, in 1869. *Little House on the Prairie* was based on the family's experiences there.


LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE
LAURA INGALLS WILDER

The cover of the first edition of *Little House on the Prairie*


KANSAS
SOUTHERN CHIVALRY — ARGUMENT versus CLUB'S.

Congressman Preston Brooks attacking Senator Charles Sumner

GERONIMO

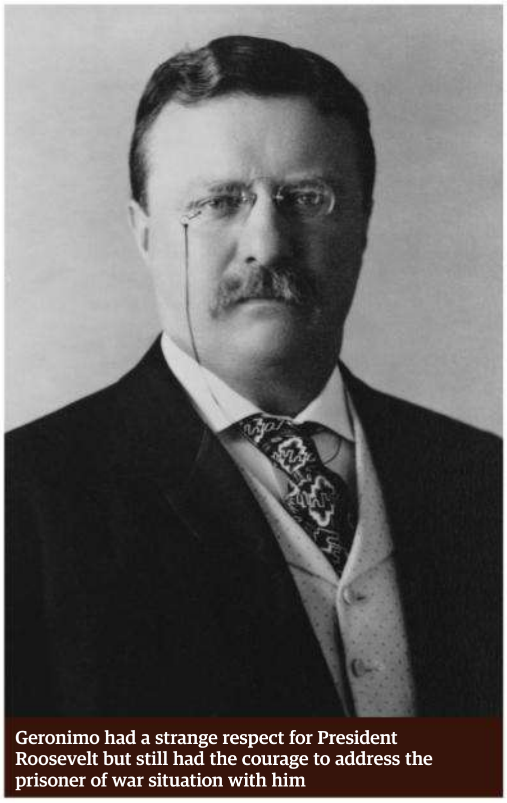
Geronimo was many things – a warrior, a thief, a killer and a leader. But it was what he wasn't – a husband and a father – that mattered most

Geronimo's family was dead. His mother, his wife and his three young children, all slain by a band of Mexican soldiers. The profound, all-encompassing sense of loss that descended on him caused something to rise up in Geronimo: a primal desire to avenge his loved ones that led to decades of fighting against Mexican and U.S. soldiers, earning him the title 'the worst Indian who ever lived' among the white settlers.

Born 16 June 1829, Geronimo's given name was Goyaałé, 'the one who yawns'. He belonged to the Bedonkohe band of the Chiricahua Apache tribe. Raised according to Apache tradition, his parents educated him in the legends of his people, of their beliefs and also of the adventures of warriors fighting for their honour. His was a life at one with the landscape around him, hunting when the tribe needed to eat or tending to the crops in the field.

After his admission to the council of the warriors when he was 17, he was free to marry the love of his life - Alope. They set up home near his mother's tepee, and like any couple with their first home, set about decorating it. Before long Geronimo was a father of three. His children lived the same idyllic childhood as he did, and he was very happy. Then in 1858, his tribe stopped in a Mexican town called Kas-ki-yeh (Janos) and his life changed forever.

While he was out trading, a band of Mexican soldiers slaughtered everyone in the camp. Geronimo lost his mother, wife and children. Their chief, Mangas Coloradas, decided there were just too few of them left to stay and avenge the slain, so they gathered the supplies they could, left their dead at the camp and headed back home to Arizona.


Geronimo had a strange respect for President Roosevelt but still had the courage to address the prisoner of war situation with him

Still reeling from what had happened, Geronimo was tasked with soliciting help from the Chiricahua and Nedni Apaches, which he managed to do. Almost a year on from the Kas-ki-yeh massacre, Geronimo stood with warriors from the three Apache tribes, ready to go on the war path. They had no horses and wore only moccasins and a loin cloth. The cloth would also double as a sleeping blanket and meant the warriors didn't have to carry much. Covering 40-45 miles a day, it was imperative that they travelled light.

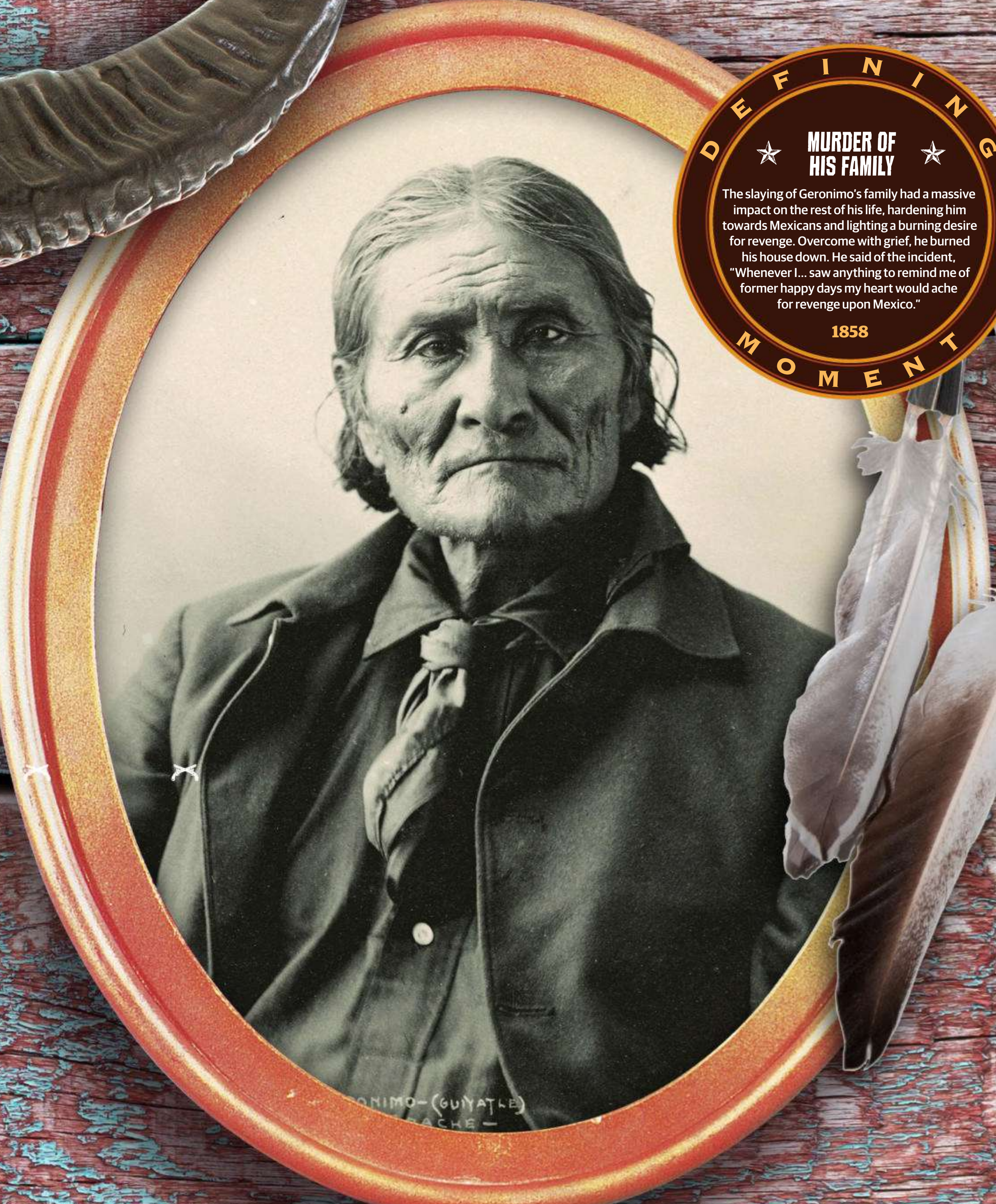
Geronimo guided the warriors into Mexico, and it was near Arise that a small group of men came to

DEFINING MOMENT

MURDER OF HIS FAMILY

The slaying of Geronimo's family had a massive impact on the rest of his life, hardening him towards Mexicans and lighting a burning desire for revenge. Overcome with grief, he burned his house down. He said of the incident, "Whenever I… saw anything to remind me of former happy days my heart would ache for revenge upon Mexico."

1858



parley with them. But Geronimo wasn't interested in words. The men were captured, killed and scalped in an attempt to draw troops from the city. The move worked, and the next day two companies of cavalry and two of infantry rode out towards them. Geronimo spotted the soldiers who had massacred his family and tribe. He relayed this to the chieftains, who told him to direct the battle.

This was Geronimo's chance to not only please the chieftain but get revenge on those who had wronged him. He arranged the warriors in a circle near the river. The Mexican infantry formed two lines, with the cavalry in reserve. The infantry advanced until they were about 400 yards away from Geronimo and the other warriors. They stopped and then opened fire. Geronimo led a charge towards them, while other troops attacked from the rear. His vow for vengeance was all that he thought about and he fought like a wounded animal.

The battle raged for almost two hours, after which only Geronimo and three others were left. They had used all their arrows and spears, so fought with their hands and knives. Two armed soldiers appeared and shot two of Geronimo's men. The other was attacked with a sabre. Geronimo grabbed a spear from a body and killed one trooper. The other soldier advanced. The two fought, but Geronimo's lust for blood was stronger and he killed the Mexican with his knife. It was over. Apaches from across the field shouted out their war cry, and Geronimo had avenged his family.

But it wasn't enough. Geronimo wanted more revenge and persuaded two other warriors, Ah-koch-ne and Ko-deh-ne to join him in invading Mexico. They set out on foot, following the Sierra de Antunez Mountains. Upon finding a village they decided to attack it. While advancing, Geronimo's two companions were shot dead. Mexicans descended on Geronimo, who fought them off before hiding.

The next two days were spent dodging the Mexicans while trying to get back to his camp in Arizona. He arrived, but with nothing to show for his journey apart from two dead warriors, Geronimo was not popular. He didn't care – his need for revenge topped everything else. As he said, "I never ceased to plan for their [the Mexicans'] punishment."

The following years were spent in much the same pattern – Geronimo would persuade some of his tribe to go raiding with him in Mexico, chaos would ensue, Geronimo would kill Mexicans, and if everything went to plan, they would return with supplies. But then the enemy changed. White settlers and U.S. soldiers started flooding the area, with their eye on moving the Apaches to reservations and taking their land.

In 1863, Geronimo's chief, Mangas Coloradas, set out to make a peace treaty with U.S. soldiers at Apache Tejo, New Mexico. He was told that if he brought his tribe to live near the settlement there he would be given food, blankets and other supplies. After holding council, it was decided Mangas Coloradas would take half the tribe there, and if all went well, Geronimo would follow with the rest.

It did not go well. Geronimo received reports of the tribe being killed. With no firepower and fearful the troops would come for them, he took his tribe into the mountains. A few attacks came from U.S. troops, with Geronimo and his tribe having to continually move in an effort to find supplies. After initially making a treaty with General Howard at Apache Pass (Fort Bowie), Geronimo, along with other leaders, decided to leave.

While at Hot Springs, two scouts from San Carlos approached with a message asking Geronimo to come to town. Immediately on arrival, Geronimo was disarmed and sentenced to the guardhouse. The reason? He had left Apache Pass, even though he had never been told he couldn't leave. Geronimo was held for a couple of years, then in 1883, a rumour started that the officers were planning to imprison the leaders. Geronimo couldn't stand the thought of being in jail, so he fled.

Geronimo moved around for about a year in the mountains of Old Mexico, returning to San Carlos and taking a herd of cattle and horses. The officer in charge of San Carlos, General Crook, took the cattle and horses away from Geronimo. He instructed his officers to arrest Geronimo, and if he fought back, to kill him.

Geronimo, along with about 400 other Native Americans, left for Old Mexico before eventually ending up at the Sierra de Antunez Mountains. Geronimo heard that General Crook wanted to see him, so he agreed to go with him back to San Carlos. While he and his tribe were returning to the U.S., Geronimo and his people started to have misgivings about the venture, causing them to turn around and head the other way.

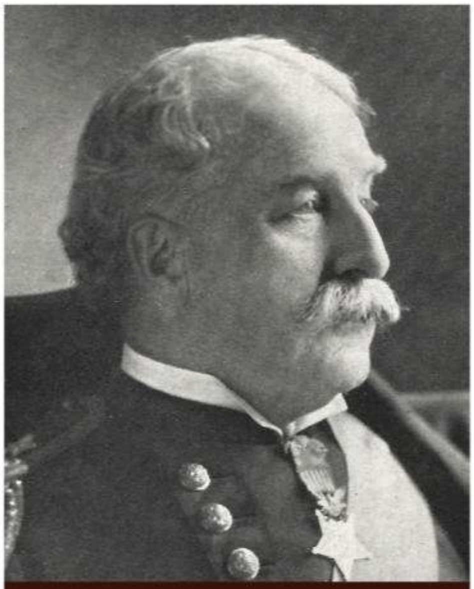
This decision did not go down well. It was the third time Geronimo had cheated capture and his constant raids against the U.S. troops

DEFINING MOMENT

★ GETTING THE GERONIMO NAME ★

There is some dispute about how Geronimo got his name, but both working accounts took place later in his life. Sent out by his chief to exact revenge on the Mexicans, Geronimo set about them like a man possessed. One story has it that the Mexicans cried out to Saint Jerome (Jeronimo) to help them. Others say it was simply a mispronunciation.

circa 1859



In his biography, Geronimo asserts that General Miles lied to him about what life he could expect after he surrendered

Geronimo: Five facts

1 In his final campaign, 5,000 soldiers and 500 scouts were sent to track and capture Geronimo's small band of warriors.

2 Legend has it that as a boy, Geronimo swallowed the heart of his first kill to guarantee success of the chase in later life.

3 Geronimo joined the Dutch Reformed Church in 1903 but was expelled four years later because of his gambling.

4 Photographer C. S. Fly's photos of Geronimo and other free Apaches (including two of Geronimo's sons) are the only existing photographs of Geronimo's surrender to the U.S.

5 Geronimo's skull was allegedly stolen from its tomb by members of Yale's Skull and Bones Society.

TIMELINE

1846

Joins warrior council
It wasn't until he joined the warrior council that Geronimo could marry Alope and fight as a warrior for his tribe.

1858

Kas-ki-yeh massacre
While the men were out trading in the Mexican town of Kas-ki-yeh (Janos) a band of Mexican soldiers raided the camp of women and children. Geronimo's mother, wife and children were all killed.

1860

Miner attack
Bedonkohe Apaches camping on the west bank of the Mimbres River (New Mexico) are attacked by 30 miners, who kill four of the tribespeople. The Apaches respond with raids on U.S. citizens.

1873

Massacre at Casa Grande
The Apaches and Mexicans agree on a peace treaty, but the Mexicans give mescal to the Apache, and as soon as they become intoxicated they kill 20 and capture some more.

The second inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt

were embarrassing. By staying one step ahead of his enemy, Geronimo forced the Americans to constantly chase him. With the Mexicans also becoming more active, conflict broke out pretty much every day.

It was decided that the tribe should break up into small bands and disperse. While on their way to Arizona in 1886, Geronimo heard from scouts that General Miles wanted to meet him again. Geronimo acquiesced to the request, agreeing to meet Miles. He even promised to surrender on the condition that he wouldn't be arrested. He was assured by his soon-to-be host that he wouldn't be, a lie that Geronimo would bitterly regret believing.

After arriving in San Antonio, Texas, Geronimo was immediately tried for his crimes. He was then moved to Fort Pickens, where he was made to endure hard labour for nearly two years. He was then sent to Alabama, where for five years he worked for the government. The land, property and freedom promised by General Miles in the surrender treaty never materialised.

Geronimo acquired a celebrity status during his imprisonment. In 1898, he took part in a Chiricahua delegation from Fort Sill to the Omaha Exposition in Nebraska, which led to him becoming an in-demand figure for other fêtes, including the 1904 St Louis World's Fair.

Despite his misgivings, Geronimo agreed to attend the fair, and he ended up staying for six months, selling his photograph and autographs, all the while still being held as a prisoner of war.

In fact, despite being assured by General Miles that he wouldn't ever become a prisoner, Geronimo spent more than 20 years as exactly that. When he died from pneumonia at the age of 79 in February 1909, he did so as a prisoner of war, having been betrayed by men he'd trusted.

On his deathbed, Geronimo expressed his deep regret at having surrendered, telling his nephew that, "I should never have surrendered. I should have fought until I was the last man alive." A man of his word, Geronimo died in the custody of a liar.

DEFINING MOMENT

MEETING PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

Geronimo took part in President Roosevelt's second inaugural parade, riding a pony down Pennsylvania Avenue. After the parade he addressed the president at the White House about allowing the Chiricahuas to return to their homeland. He pleaded with him to "cut the ropes and make me free". His request was denied.

4 March 1905

The 'volunteer' POWs

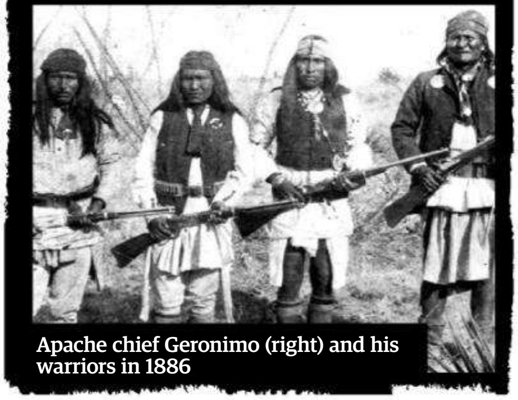
Chiricahua Apache men, women and children surrendered to the United States Army on the understanding that, after being held as prisoners of war for two years, they would be allowed to return to their own land. This was in 1886. The agreed two years imprisonment ended up lasting an incredible 27 years, with the Apaches held against their will with no charges made against them and no chance to make their case in court.

The treatment of the Apaches in these prisons was disgraceful. After the first 75 prisoners arrived at Fort Marion, Florida, the commander said there was only room for 75 more. Yet in total, 502 Apaches were sent.

Then it was deemed a good idea to take some of the men and boys to an island, where they were expected to catch and cook fish to feed the others. To the Apache, eating fish was a taboo, yet it continued to be one of their main food sources.

After spending eight years at Fort Marion, Congress passed a provision to move the Chiricahua Apache to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, which was in Indian territory. While still prisoners, General Nelson Miles visited them to explain that this was now their permanent home.

The United States Senate attempted to free the Chiricahua Apache from their prisoner status and provide allotments at Fort Sill, but this was defeated in the House. The prisoners had to wait until 1913 before their freedom was returned.



Apache chief Geronimo (right) and his warriors in 1886

1883

Mexicans work with U.S.
U.S. troops are allowed into Mexico in order to hunt down Geronimo and his band of Apaches.

1885

Escape from reservation
Geronimo, along with other Apache, flees the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. The reservation tried to install a restrictive life on the semi-nomads.

1886

Surrender to General Miles
After years of battles and being hunted, Geronimo and his small band of warriors surrender to General Miles on 6 September.

1894

Relocation to Fort Sill
After his surrender, Geronimo is moved around from forts to barracks before finally being sent to Fort Sill, where he would die.

1898

Omaha Exposition
As part of a Chiricahua delegation, Geronimo finds himself a major attraction and gains a celebrity status that stays with him.

1905

Geronimo tells his story
After getting President Roosevelt's permission, S. M. Barrett publishes *Geronimo, Story of My Life*. Geronimo apparently refused to answer questions and instead set out a narrative of his life.

1909

Dies of pneumonia
After being thrown from a horse and spending all night in the cold, Geronimo is found by a friend in a terrible state. He later dies of pneumonia, still a prisoner of the U.S.

© Alamy, Thinkstock

WILD BILL HICKOK

With his tall frame, steely eyes, sharp shootin', hard drinkin', gamblin' ways, 'Wild Bill' Hickok became an iconic hero in the Old West

Out of all the colourful characters from the Wild West, Wild Bill Hickok is definitely up there as one of the most vibrant. In his time he was a wagon master, soldier, spy, sheriff, marshal, gambler and showman. National press and magazines scrambled to record his exploits, building him into a folk hero. Calamity Jane boasted that the two were lovers and then married, although there is much dispute about this. Even his death has turned into a gambling legacy that exists to this day. While there has undoubtedly been a lot of exaggeration about his adventures - from himself as well as others - even if you strip away all of the razzle dazzle, an incredibly interesting figure remains.

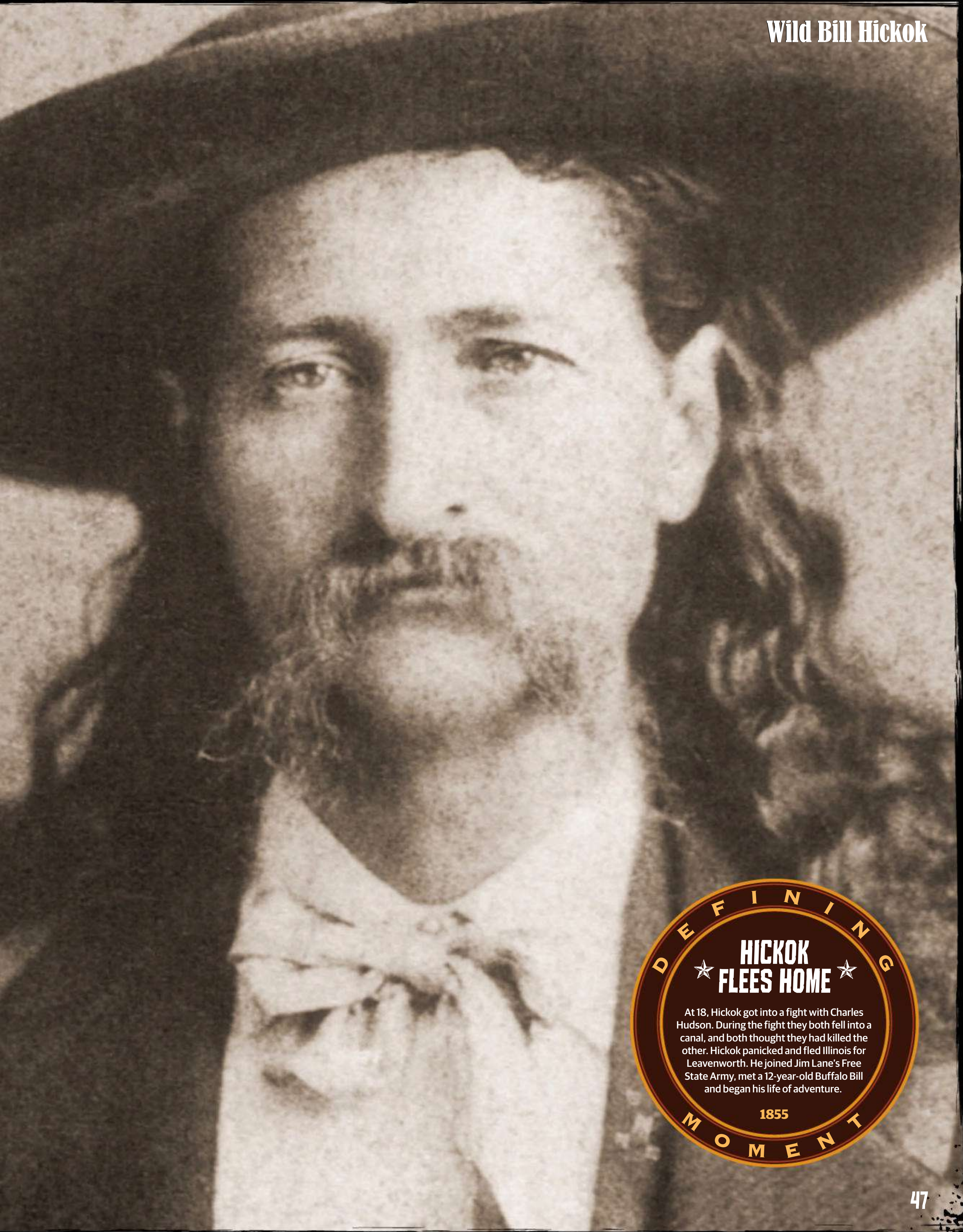
Born James Butler Hickok on 27 May 1837, he was exposed at a young age to the idea of helping the underdog. His parents had a farm but also risked their lives operating a station along the Underground Railway helping to smuggle slaves out of the South. The important work carried out by his parents instilled a sense of right and wrong in the young boy, and he would often rush to help the unfortunate during his life.

His childhood was also when he discovered his love of guns. While out with his father, they were chased by officers who suspected they were smuggling slaves in their hay wagon. A gunfight ensued, and rather than being frightened, Hickok was enthralled. After this incident, he would spend his time taking target practice at the unfortunate wildlife living around the farm and soon he became a very accurate shot.

Hickok left to become a teamster for the Union Army after Civil War broke out in 1861. That year also heralded an incident that would play a large part in the legend of Wild Bill - the McCanles Massacre, which took place in July.

While visiting a friend at Rock Creek Station, Bill was told of a gang of Confederates led by David McCanles that had been demanding payment for the buildings they had sold to locals. No sooner had he been told this, the gang descended upon them. A shootout ensued, with Hickok shooting McCanles before he got the chance to shoot him, then going on to shoot another five gang members, knocking out another member, then fighting off another three in hand-to-hand combat. At least this was the account that appeared in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in February 1867. The public loved it.

By this time they were used to the tales of Wild Bill and his adventures, so they lapped up every detail. It is more likely that Hickok only killed one man, with as many as three others helping to dispatch the rest, but the truth never gets in the way of a good story.



DEFINING MOMENT

HICKOK FLEES HOME

At 18, Hickok got into a fight with Charles Hudson. During the fight they both fell into a canal, and both thought they had killed the other. Hickok panicked and fled Illinois for Leavenworth. He joined Jim Lane's Free State Army, met a 12-year-old Buffalo Bill and began his life of adventure.

1855

Hickok with Texas Jack Omohundro and Buffalo Bill during his very short stint on Buffalo Bill's show

DEFINING MOMENT

GETTING THE 'WILD BILL' NICKNAME

While serving in the Union Army, Hickok came across a gang of drunks who were planning to hang a barman who had shot a criminal in a fight. Hickok was having none of it. He shot twice over the gang's heads and stared them down until they left. A woman who was watching shouted "Good for you, Wild Bill!" The name stuck.

1861

Hickok was discharged from the army in 1862 for unknown reasons. His whereabouts become a bit sketchy for the next year, but at least one source suggests he was a Union spy. After some time as a detective and a scout, Hickok arrived in Springfield, where he got his first taste of fame.

21 July 1865 saw Hickok involved in a duel with Davis Tutt, who he shot dead. There is some discussion over whether the duel came about as a result of a fight over a card game, a woman, or even because Tutt stole a watch from Hickok and then flounced around town with it, despite Hickok warning him that he would kill him if he wore it. Whatever the reason, the quick-draw duel was the first of its kind and attracted much attention.

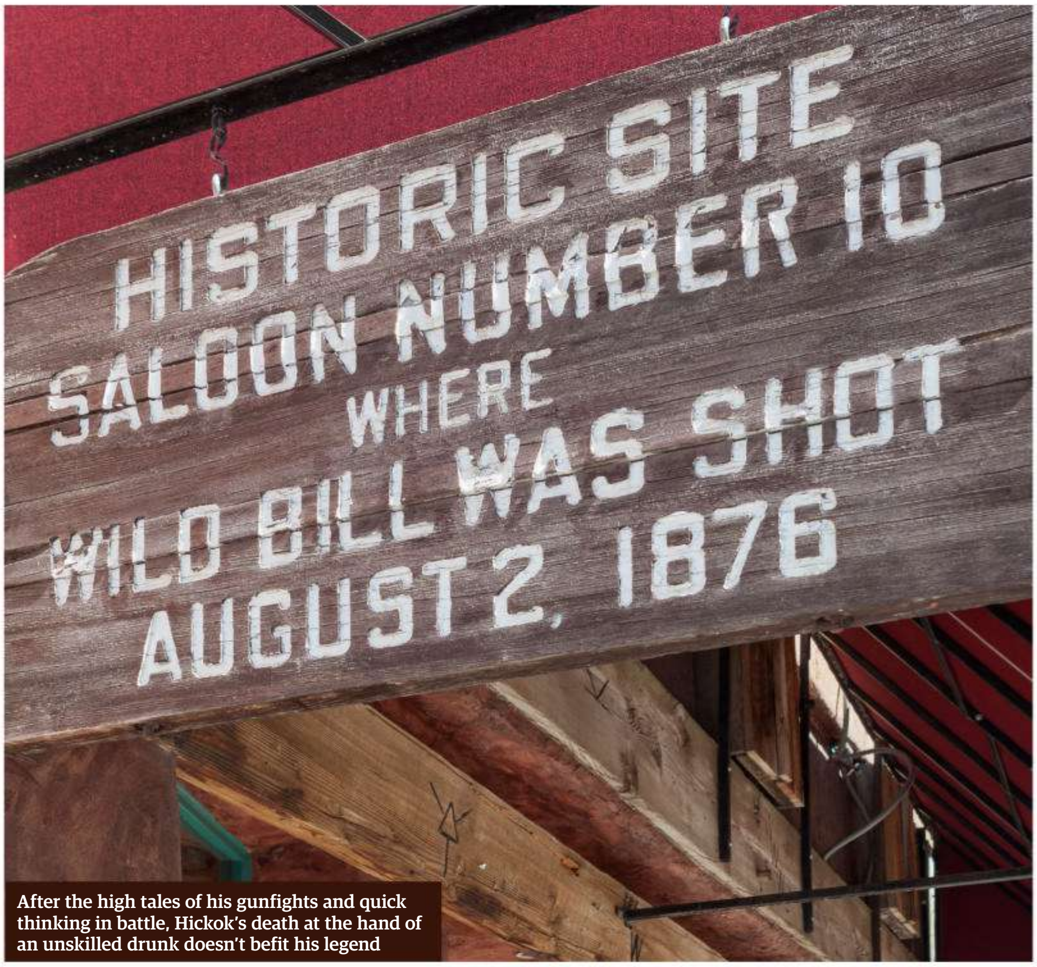
One version of the duel has Hickok drawing first but waiting for Tutt to take his shot. He does… and misses. Hickok then calmly rests his gun on his left arm, takes aim and fires, killing Tutt. Despite winning the duel, Hickok was arrested for murder, later reduced to manslaughter. However, he was acquitted at trial, causing a public backlash. In addition to the outrage, *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* published an interview with Hickok, using the 'Wild Bill' nickname, detailing how he had killed 'hundreds' of men. A legend was born, and Hickok only seems to have added to the image of him being a man not to mess with.

While working as a sheriff in Ellis County, Kansas, he killed two men. A drunk Bill Mulvey was stumbling through the town, shooting mirrors and whiskey bottles and shouting how he had come to kill Hickok. When Hickok arrived at the scene, Mulvey raised his rifle, ready to shoot. Hickok instead waved his hand, as if getting the attention of someone behind Mulvey, and shouted "Don't shoot him in the back, he's drunk!" Mulvey duly turned round to see who was behind him, only to then be shot through the temple by Hickok.

The second man, Samuel Strawhun, was causing a disturbance in a saloon early one morning. After making certain remarks about Hickok, the sheriff shot Strawhun in the head. Hickok's defence was that he had "tried to restore order". Eye witness accounts didn't quite match Hickok's recollection, but the shooting was considered justified anyway. However, he was not re-elected and instead became marshal of Abilene in 1871, one of the toughest towns in the West, rife with gambling and prostitution. It was while serving as sheriff of Abilene that Hickok's life started to go downhill.

It all began with an obscene saloon sign. The Bull's Head Tavern was established by gambler Ben Thompson and businessman Phil Coe. To advertise their drinking hole, the two had painted a bull with an erect penis on the side of the building. Citizens were not pleased and told the sheriff. After asking the pair to amend the image and getting nowhere, Hickok simply changed it himself.

The pair were furious, and after trying to get someone to kill Hickok, Coe started boasting about his shooting prowess, saying he could "kill a crow on



After the high tales of his gunfights and quick thinking in battle, Hickok's death at the hand of an unskilled drunk doesn't befit his legend

"STRAWHUN MADE REMARKS ABOUT HICKOK, WHO THEN SHOT STRAWHUN IN THE HEAD"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

the wing". Hickok's reply, "Did the crow have a pistol? Was he shooting back? I will be," went on to become a famous saying in the West. Coe was eventually shot by Hickok, but in the confusion, Hickok also shot his deputy. He was relieved of duty and the event marked a new, darker chapter of his life.

In 1873, Hickok met up with his old friend Buffalo Bill, who invited him to join his acting troupe. Hickok agreed but hated every minute of it, often hiding behind the scenery and even shooting out the spotlight in one show when it shone on him. He took to gambling, managing to make a living but aware that his old shooting skills were getting worse. In 1876, a doctor gave him the bad news that he had glaucoma, and he knew that his time as a marksman was over. He was 39.

Hickok descended into a fog of drinking and gambling, often being arrested for vagrancy. He did marry, wedding circus owner Agnes Thatcher, who he seemed to genuinely love, but he would still go off to gamble and drink.

It was while gambling at Nuttal & Mann's Saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, that Hickok would meet a bloody end. A man called Jack McCall joined the poker table Hickok was at, but he was drunk and soon started losing a lot of money. Hickok joked that he should stop playing until he could cover his debts and offered him some money to buy him breakfast. McCall was utterly humiliated but he still took Hickok's money.

The next day, Hickok was back at the table. But on this occasion he broke the habit of a lifetime. He would usually sit with his back to the wall so that he could keep an eye on a room without someone creeping up behind him. This time, the only room at the table was with its back to the entrance. He asked another man to change seats twice but his request was refused. The draw of the table was too much though, so he sat down to play.

Unknown to Hickok, McCall entered the saloon. Drawing his Colt .45-calibre revolver, he walked up behind Hickok, cried "Damn you, take that!" and shot him in the back of the head. The bullet blew through Hickok's right cheek and hit another player in the left wrist. Hickok died instantly.

Perhaps fittingly given his love of gambling, the hand Hickok was holding when he was shot has become a famous poker hand. He was playing a game of five-card draw when he was killed, holding a pair of black aces and a pair of black eights as McCall fired. This hand became known as the 'dead man's hand' and is still referred to in the same way today.

The accidental assassin

Jack McCall wasn't known for anything other than being a stupid drunk, but by killing Hickok he secured his place in the Wild West history books. He also secured his execution, although it came in a bit of a farcical way.

After the shooting, McCall stood in front of a 'miner's jury', made up of a rough and ready group of miners and businessmen. McCall's defence was that he killed Hickok to avenge the death of his brother. While there is no definite record of Hickok killing McCall's sibling, it is a possibility. True or not, the argument worked and McCall was acquitted.

The public had a hard time believing this. An editorial in the *Black Hills Pioneer* read "Should it ever be our misfortune to kill a man… we would simply ask that our trial may take place in some of the mining camps of these hills."

Yet despite the widespread disbelief, McCall looked set to escape punishment. Then he stupidly bragged about killing Hickok, for which he was arrested and put on trial.

The fact that his first trial was somewhat unusual and conducted in Indian country meant the new trial wasn't considered double jeopardy. It took place in Yankton, and this time McCall was found guilty of murder. He was subsequently hanged on 1 March 1877. When the cemetery he was buried in had to move in 1881, upon exhumation McCall was found with the noose still around his neck.

It is generally agreed that if he hadn't shot Hickok, no one would know who Jack McCall was

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The hand Hickok was holding when he died became known as a 'dead man's hand', a term still used today

LAST ORDERS at the BAR

Step through the swinging doors of the Old West's wildest watering holes

BY JAN MACKELL COLLINS

In the American West, saloons were a staple of any budding boomtown. Whether high in the primitive mining camps of the Rocky Mountains or on the low, dusty plains and deserts of the southwest, men were in need of a place to sip libations, socialise and escape their dreary lifestyles. As romantic as they sound, those with occupations like cowboys, farmers, ranchers and miners worked and lived in lonely, mostly uncomfortable conditions. The beds were hard, the nights cold and the time in between work shifts could be downright monotonous.

Visiting a saloon meant more than just quenching one's thirst. Here, a new fellow in town could learn about his surroundings as well as the latest news. He could ask for directions or seek the whereabouts of some place or person he was looking for. He could find a job or secure a safe (if not entirely comfortable) place to sleep. Most importantly, he could relax, sip a little whiskey, play some cards and perhaps dance with a pretty girl. A good tavern offered all of these opportunities and could even serve as a selling point for a town, enticing settlers to move there.

For the miners – a transient bunch that tended to travel wherever their luck held out – the local saloon was like a second home. In Cripple Creek, Colorado, saloon and gambling house owner Johnny Nolon was known to allow prospectors and others down on their luck to sleep on his pool tables and floor for the night. He even provided them with blankets.

In spite of their hospitality, those friendly saloons could also be the scenes of fights, robberies, shootouts and other mayhem that came with the territory. It was certainly not unusual to see fights break out over cheating at cards, courting another man's girl or sometimes simply just the need to let off some steam. While some men actually relished a good fisticuff, good-natured tussles could turn deadly in an instant. But that was the way of the West, in an untamed land that found its footing via alcohol and games of chance.

GAMBLING AND GAMES

As well as drinking , brawling and trying to pick up women, saloon patrons would often play a variety of games. Most historians tend to think poker was the name of the game in the 1800s. In truth, faro

Jan is an American author and speaker who writes and gives presentations about various aspects of the Wild West, including saloons and bawdy houses during the 1800s.

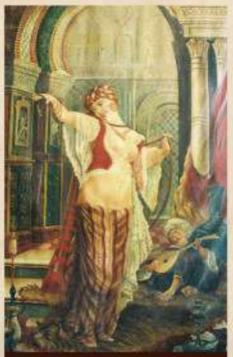
was much more popular, for the simple reason that it was amazingly easy to play. The game originated in France as 'pharaoh' but was shortened to faro in the U.S. It was also known as 'bucking the tiger' due to the picture of a tiger that often appeared on the back of American playing cards.

Faro consisted of one deck and a faro board, and the cards were dealt one at a time into two piles. Simply put, the pile on the left lost and the one on the right won. The numerical order of the cards was unimportant; players placed their chips on the painted cards on the board to bet whether that particular card would appear in the winning pile. Variations of the game as it played out allowed for more betting, and the final hand, known as 'calling the turn', could pay four to one – but the odds of winning were purely chance. Because the game moved fast, faro was very easy to cheat at and is no longer used in American casinos.

Roulette was harder to cheat at. The rules weren't that different to how they are today; this old French game used a wooden spinning wheel with numbers on it divided by small metal partitions. As the wheel spun around, a little metal ball was dropped in. Players bet on which numbered slot the ball would land. But in the West, roulette wheels in the 1880s featured a single zero, a double zero and an American eagle. If the ball landed in any of these slots, the house automatically won and the dealer took all money on the table. Later, these elements were declared unfair and removed from the game.

Craps was an adaptation of the early English game of hazard and was based on what numbers might be rolled with a pair of dice. Although it could be played on a sidewalk, crap tables with a 'layout' were present

This bordello in Cheyenne, Wyoming, featured pretty girls, a piano player and most certainly alcohol


At the Birdcage Theatre in Tombstone, Arizona, a life-size poster of 'Little Egypt' the belly dancer remains as testament to her performances there

"FRIENDLY SALOONS COULD ALSO BE THE SCENES OF FIGHTS, ROBBERIES, SHOOT-OUTS AND OTHER MAYHEM THAT CAME WITH THE TERRITORY"

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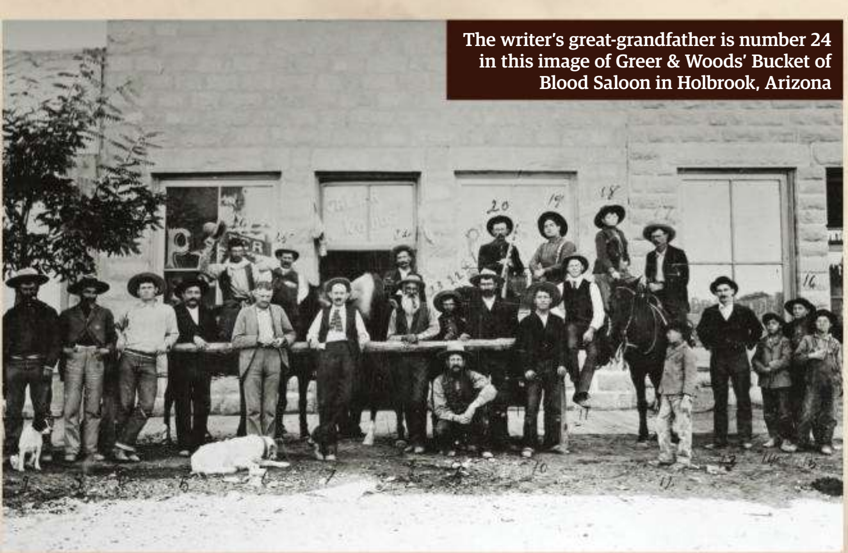

The writer's great-grandfather is number 24 in this image of Greer & Woods' Bucket of Blood Saloon in Holbrook, Arizona

THE WEST'S WILDEST SALOONS, BARKEEPS AND FLOOSIES

BOB LEE

Member of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch

A cousin of the notorious Kid Curry, Bob could play fiddle and deal poker. He also helped rob a train and worked as a miner when he wasn't bartending in Harlem, Montana.

BUCKET OF BLOOD SALOON

Holbrook, Arizona

This rowdy tavern, also known as the Pioneer Saloon to many, was a favourite watering hole of the famed Hashknife cowboys of Arizona, who enjoyed kicking their heels up on Saturday nights.

CHICAGO JO HENSLEY

Helena, Montana

Josephine Airey "mortgaged everything, including her underwear – three dozen pairs of underclothes" to eventually build her Red Light Saloon. She became one of the wealthiest landowners in Helena.

PEARL DEVERE

Cripple Creek, Colorado

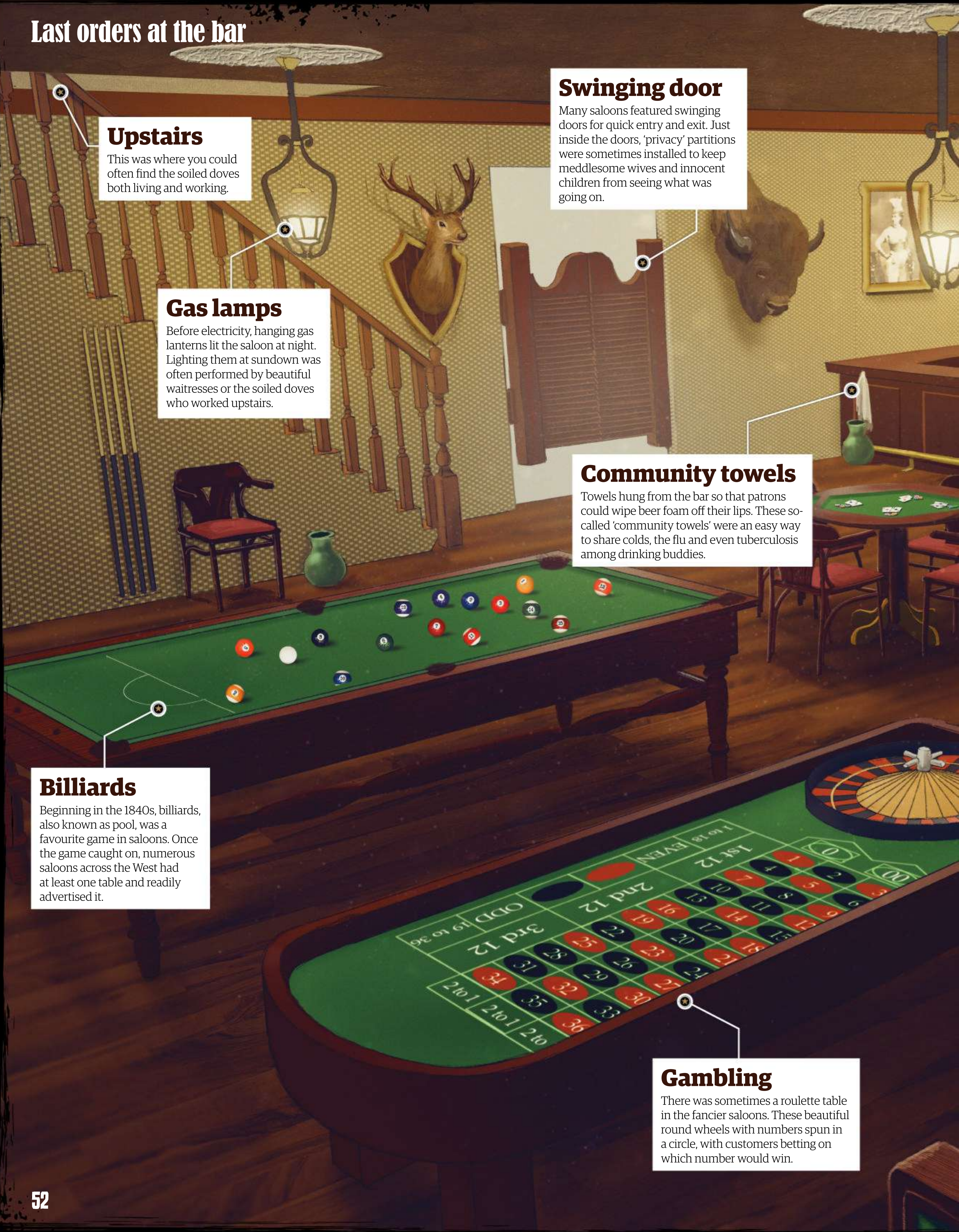
Pearl's Old Homestead Parlour House was among the most palatial in the West. The prices ran between $50 per 'trick' or $250 for the night. Today the house is a most unique museum.

THE WHITE ELEPHANT

Fort Worth, Texas

This historic tavern opened in 1884 and quickly evolved into one of the classiest places in the southwest. The quality food and drink drew wealthy men but also scallywags. The bar remains quite popular today.

Last orders at the bar



Upstairs

This was where you could often find the soiled doves both living and working.

Swinging door

Many saloons featured swinging doors for quick entry and exit. Just inside the doors, 'privacy' partitions were sometimes installed to keep meddlesome wives and innocent children from seeing what was going on.

Gas lamps

Before electricity, hanging gas lanterns lit the saloon at night. Lighting them at sundown was often performed by beautiful waitresses or the soiled doves who worked upstairs.

Community towels

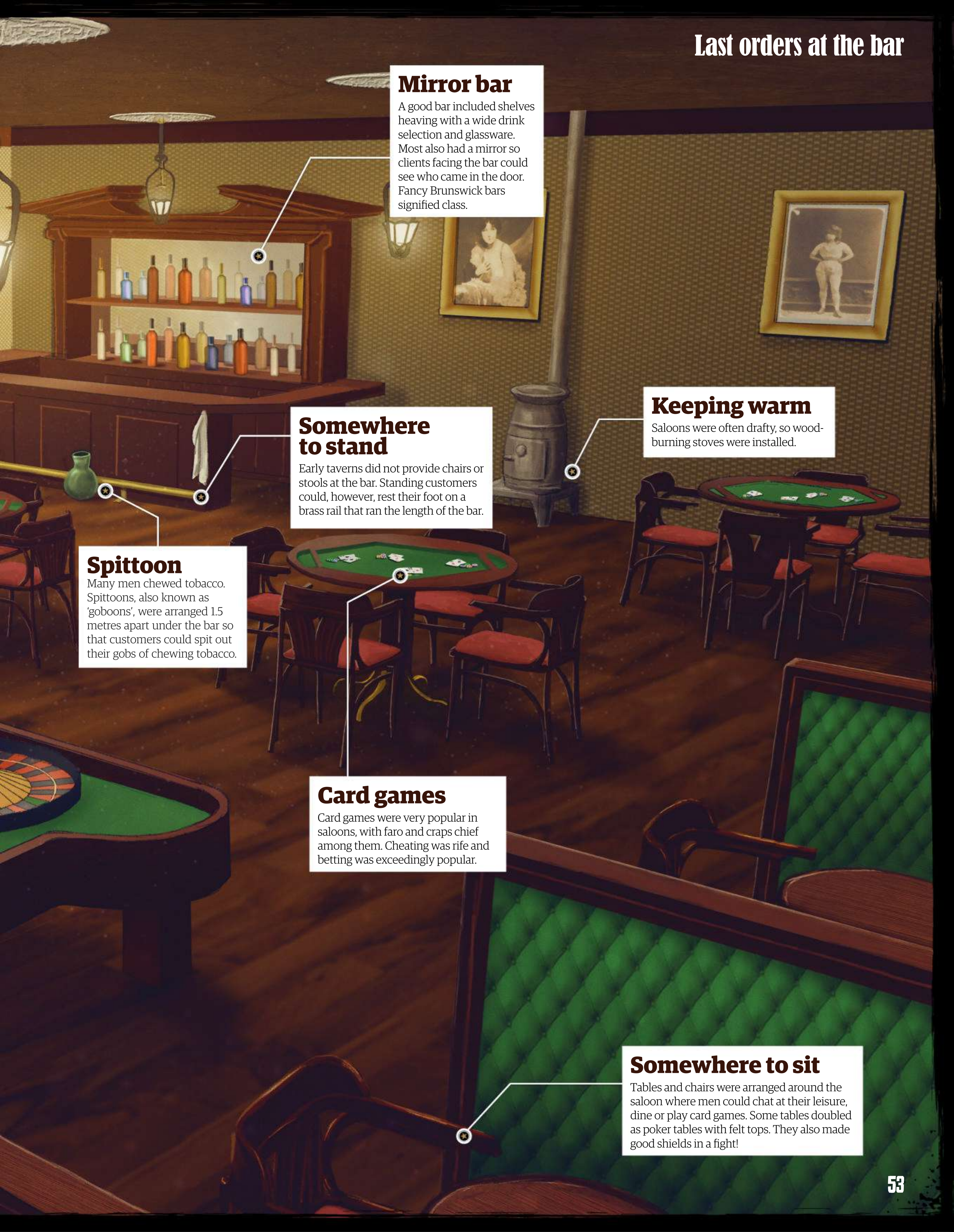
Towels hung from the bar so that patrons could wipe beer foam off their lips. These so-called 'community towels' were an easy way to share colds, the flu and even tuberculosis among drinking buddies.

Billiards

Beginning in the 1840s, billiards, also known as pool, was a favourite game in saloons. Once the game caught on, numerous saloons across the West had at least one table and readily advertised it.

Gambling

There was sometimes a roulette table in the fancier saloons. These beautiful round wheels with numbers spun in a circle, with customers betting on which number would win.



Mirror bar

A good bar included shelves heaving with a wide drink selection and glassware. Most also had a mirror so clients facing the bar could see who came in the door. Fancy Brunswick bars signified class.

Keeping warm

Saloons were often drafty, so wood-burning stoves were installed.

Somewhere to stand

Early taverns did not provide chairs or stools at the bar. Standing customers could, however, rest their foot on a brass rail that ran the length of the bar.

Spittoon

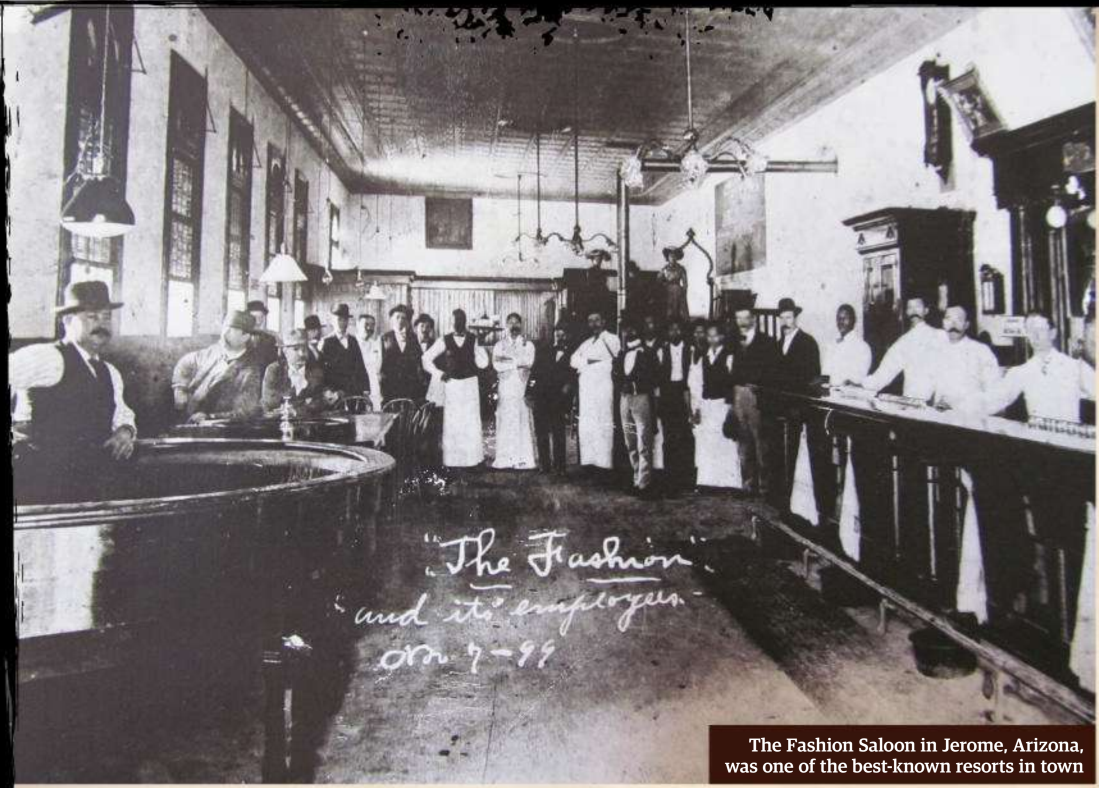
Many men chewed tobacco. Spittoons, also known as 'goboons', were arranged 1.5 metres apart under the bar so that customers could spit out their gobs of chewing tobacco.

Card games

Card games were very popular in saloons, with faro and craps chief among them. Cheating was rife and betting was exceedingly popular.

Somewhere to sit

Tables and chairs were arranged around the saloon where men could chat at their leisure, dine or play card games. Some tables doubled as poker tables with felt tops. They also made good shields in a fight!



The Fashion Saloon in Jerome, Arizona, was one of the best-known resorts in town

"SOME PLACES EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO SERVE A FREE LUNCH WITH THE PURCHASE OF ONE OR MORE DRINKS"

in the fancier saloons. Essentially, a player threw the dice and then attempted to roll the same number again. Bets could be made by anybody – not just the player – on whether he would roll the number or 'crap out'. Varied ways of betting could make the game escalate, with hundreds or thousands of dollars on the line. You can still find craps in casinos across America.

Poor patrons could still play non-betting card games or billiards. Billiard tables first appeared in the nicer taverns but soon caught on as a great way to pass the time in any bar. Although players could bet on the games, billiards limited the number of people who could participate. Faro and poker offered betting for more players and more ways to bet.

BAWDY ENTERTAINMENT

A good saloon offered some sort of entertainment. Female singers were highly popular, usually performing with accompaniment by a small orchestra. The songs could range from bawdy numbers to opera pieces. During the 1870s in Globe, Arizona, the St Elmo Saloon featured female acrobats and singers who doubled as prostitutes between their acts.

Other places, such as the Theatre Comique in Pueblo, Colorado, offered plays – although rowdy customers might not care to sit through the entire show. In the Theatre Comique's case in 1875, one drunken customer was beaten with a board by an actress after he insulted her. "After pounding him to her heart's content, she leaped back upon the stage, and the play went on swimmingly," reported one local newspaper.

In their efforts to squelch drinking, gambling and prostitution in their midst, certain city authorities outlawed women from performing in or entering saloons. In 1882, in Shakespeare, New Mexico, one clever saloon owner found a way around the law prohibiting women from entering his place: he pushed the saloon's piano up to the window, whereby his female musician could reach through it and play a tune while standing outside.

Similar laws prohibiting female performers were eventually challenged by the ladies themselves, and many of the ordinances were overturned. Nobody could deny Grace Bartell, who took the popular nickname 'Little Egypt', when she performed her legendary belly dance at the Birdcage Theatre in Tombstone, Arizona, in 1893. Grace went on to have quite a lengthy career; in 1910 she also performed at the famed Palace Saloon in Prescott, Arizona.

During the gay 1890s, the entertainment industry had grown to include more 'variety artists'. Because women of the stage sometimes sold sex on the side, mingling with actors in general was often something that was frowned upon by decent society. The cleaner acts, however, included performers such as Lottie and Polly Oatley. They had a small dog named Tiny who sang along with them in a soprano voice. In 1896, the girls performed at the Regina Saloon in Dawson, Alaska, as well as in Victor, Colorado. In nearby Cripple Creek, those longing for the good old days could still view the real can-can being performed at Mahogany Hall.

Around the turn of the 20th century, boxing also became a huge draw for men looking for some action. Jack Dempsey fought one of his first bouts in Victor. Later, he also fought at the Ramona Athletic Club in the short-lived town of Ramona, Colorado.

After Colorado City outlawed liquor in 1913, Ramona was founded exclusively to house saloons and gambling houses. The local newspaper, the *Colorado City Iris*, said that the "booze annex […] opened in a blaze of glory", but it soon dried up after Prohibition was extended state-wide in 1916. The town – which had 49 permanent residents at its start – did try to struggle on, but it just couldn't draw the same crowds with only restaurants, even with periodic boxing matches.

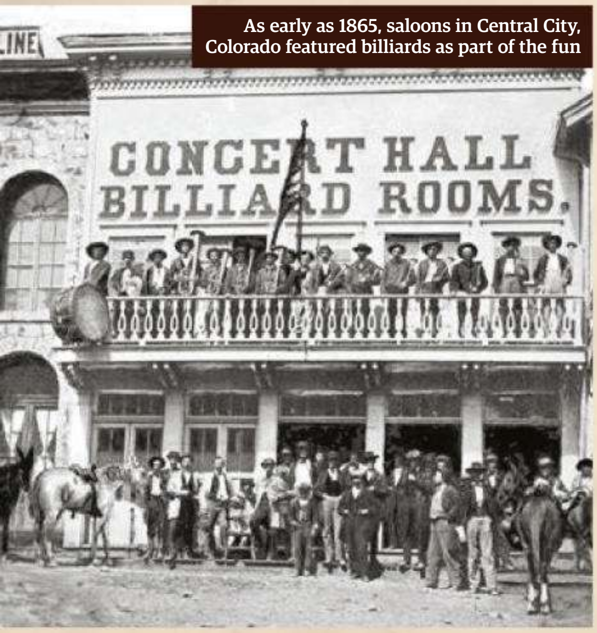
PAINTED LADIES

Nearly every town in the West, from small mining camps to large metropolises, featured a bawdy house or two. Some bordellos were no more than a 'crib', a small shack with one or two rooms. Others functioned as businesses above saloons, while palatial 'parlour houses' featured entertainment, dining, games of chance and a slew of pretty girls waiting upstairs.

In the case of cribs and saloons, the owner was often a man who rented the girls and took a hefty percentage of their earnings. This was also true in dance halls, where the dancers were required to entice customers into buying drinks by dancing and perhaps obtaining other services in private rooms upstairs or round the back. Madams were

Cleo and Hattie Fay, with their male companion, put on such a risqué show that they were actually asked to leave the stage in Victor, Colorado

Whiskey bottles are displayed at the Jerome Historical Society Museum in Arizona



As early as 1865, saloons in Central City, Colorado featured billiards as part of the fun

also known to rent cribs to the girls, who lived and entertained their customers in their small private apartments.

Parlour houses were also run by madams, who either owned their property outright or leased it from the landlord, often a prominent city businessman. In Prescott, Arizona, Mayor Morris Goldwater owned the former brothel of Madam Annie Hamilton. In larger cities like Butte, Montana, and San Francisco's Barbary Coast, parlour house girls often lived elsewhere and worked at the parlour house in shifts. In the mining towns, however, the girls lived on site, keeping their personal belongings and sometimes a small dog or cat as companions in the rooms where they worked.

'Soiled doves' (also known as sportin' women) were generally ostracised by decent society. They were required to pay monthly fines and were often subjected to arrest and jail time. Most were instructed to use the back door when entering theatres and some other public places, and many were only permitted to shop downtown on one day of the week. On those days, 'proper' women stayed at home and did laundry to prevent making contact with any harlots. A few managed to marry well and were able to leave the profession, but if a girl died of disease, overdose or suicide, her family would usually refuse to come to claim the body.

SALOON VITTLES

The customers who ate a little at the saloon were more likely to stay and drink more, so most kept a little bit of food out the back in order to entice them. Some places even went so far as to serve a free lunch with the purchase of one or more drinks, while others advertised a sandwich and a beer for as little as a nickel.

The contents of these meals – which were really just appetisers and certainly nothing filling – were inexpensive for the house and contained more than enough salt to make the customer thirsty. Boiled eggs, cheese, fried oysters, peanuts, potato chips, pretzels, rye bread, smoked meats and stewed beans usually did the trick and were often on the menu, becoming staples across the West. By spending as little as possible on food, saloon owners could still make sure to reap a profit from their paying customers without losing too much from the freeloaders who managed to sneak food without buying anything.

Fancier taverns might actually serve daily specials to break up the monotony of the menu. The Occidental Saloon in Tombstone, which the notorious Doc Holliday favoured visiting in the 1870s, served up a full menu with a considerable amount of choice. The buffet included such tantalising dishes as Columbia River salmon, legs of lamb, loins of beef or pork, corned beef and cabbage, cream fricassee of chicken, ducks of mutton, suckling pigs and a whole host of pastry desserts – all for 50 cents.

Erickson's Bar was one of the best-known and most elegant drinking establishments around Portland, Oregon, in the late 1800s. The establishment spanned an entire city block and offered a free "dainty lunch" with "haunches of beef" and sourdough bread with house-made mustard, as well as Finnish flatbread with platters of sausage and Scandinavian cheese. The meal came with a 16-ounce schooner of beer, all costing the hungry customer just a nickel.

If you knew where to go in the Old West, you could have quite the time in a saloon.

FIRE DOWN THE HOLE

It wasn't just whiskey on the menu

BRANDY

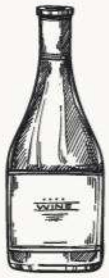
Brandy was invented when Dutch traders sought to lighten their cargo load by removing the water from distilled wine for shipping. The resulting cognac soon became a hit and was good for sipping, especially in the days before ice was readily available. The most popular brandy cocktail was known as a B&S – brandy and soda.

GIN

Gin was easy to make in America due to the prominence of juniper trees from which the strong alcohol is made. Notably, the Tom Collins was so-named by its inventor, who owned one of a chain of Palace Saloons in Cripple Creek, Colorado. Collins came up with the idea of mixing gin and lemonade for a most refreshing drink during the 1890s.

SHERRY

Sherry and schnapps were also sipping drinks but could be mixed. The Sherry Cobbler, made of sherry and sugar over ice with lemon or orange wedges, was quite popular. A Hot Scotch was simply butterscotch schnapps mixed with hot chocolate. And there was the Allison Cocktail, a very strong, bitter drink of gin, peppermint schnapps and lemon juice.



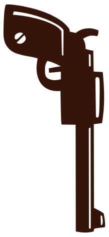
WINE

Wine was a staple in finer restaurants and also brothels. 'High wine' contained more alcohol than most, and wine coolers came in the form of a diluted spiced wine called sangaree. Sweeter was the Queen Charlotte, made with claret or burgundy mixed with raspberry syrup, lime or lemon juice, and lemon soda. The most disgusting recipe? A Syllabub: wine mixed with milk, sweetened, spiced and served warm.

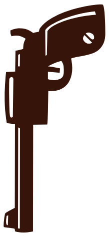
BEER

If all else failed, there was beer. Steam beer was brewed in the California goldfields and said to be "highly effervescent". Many saloons had contracts with breweries so could offer beer on tap and would advertise by calling themselves 'brewery saloons'. Others sold beer by the bottle (which were often ceramic rather than glass), while 'elephant buckets' that served the beverage in a small pail were also popular.

© Images courtesy of Jan MacKell Collins



JESSE JAMES



The Robin Hood of Missouri, or a self-mythologising murderer and thief?

Jesse James was a celebrity in his lifetime, and he remains an icon of the Wild West and a hero of the Confederate South. Born in Clay County, Missouri, in 1847, James was the middle of three children. His mother Zerelda had attended Catholic school in Kentucky, and his father Robert was a prosperous, slave-holding farmer and evangelical preacher. When Jesse was three his father, having gone West to save souls in the Gold Rush, died. Zerelda married twice in the next five years, giving Jesse four half-siblings.

Through the 1850s the U.S. slid towards civil war. Missouri was on the border between the North and the South. Clay County, with more slaveholders and more slaves than average, was known as 'Little Dixie'. When the Civil War began in 1861, Jesse's elder brother Frank joined the Confederate Army.

Missouri became a battleground for militias: the 'Bushwhackers' for the Confederacy, the 'Jayhawkers' for the Union. Both groups committed atrocities. The Bushwhackers murdered Unionist sympathisers and executed Unionist prisoners, sometimes scalping the corpses. The Jayhawkers burned farms, executed Confederate sympathisers and even expelled them from Missouri. In 1863, after Frank James had joined the Bushwhackers, a Jayhawker militia raided his family's farm. The Unionists tortured Jesse's stepfather and may have flogged 15-year-old Jesse too. Frank escaped and joined Quantrill's Raiders, a notorious guerrilla cavalry unit led by William C. Quantrill. Frank probably took part in the massacre by Quantrill's Raiders of more than 200 men and boys at the Jayhawker stronghold of Lawrence, Kansas, in August 1863.

Frank returned home in the summer of 1864 and recruited his younger brother. Soon, they were riding with another notorious Bushwhacker leader, William 'Bloody Bill' Anderson. Jesse was shot in the chest within weeks. He recovered in time to take part in the Centralia Massacre. In September 1864, Anderson's men, drunk on whiskey, raided Centralia, Missouri, and captured a train. They ordered the 23 Union soldiers on the train to strip, then shot, maimed and scalped them all. Pursued by a Jayhawker militia, the next day Anderson's men ambushed and slaughtered more than 100 men.

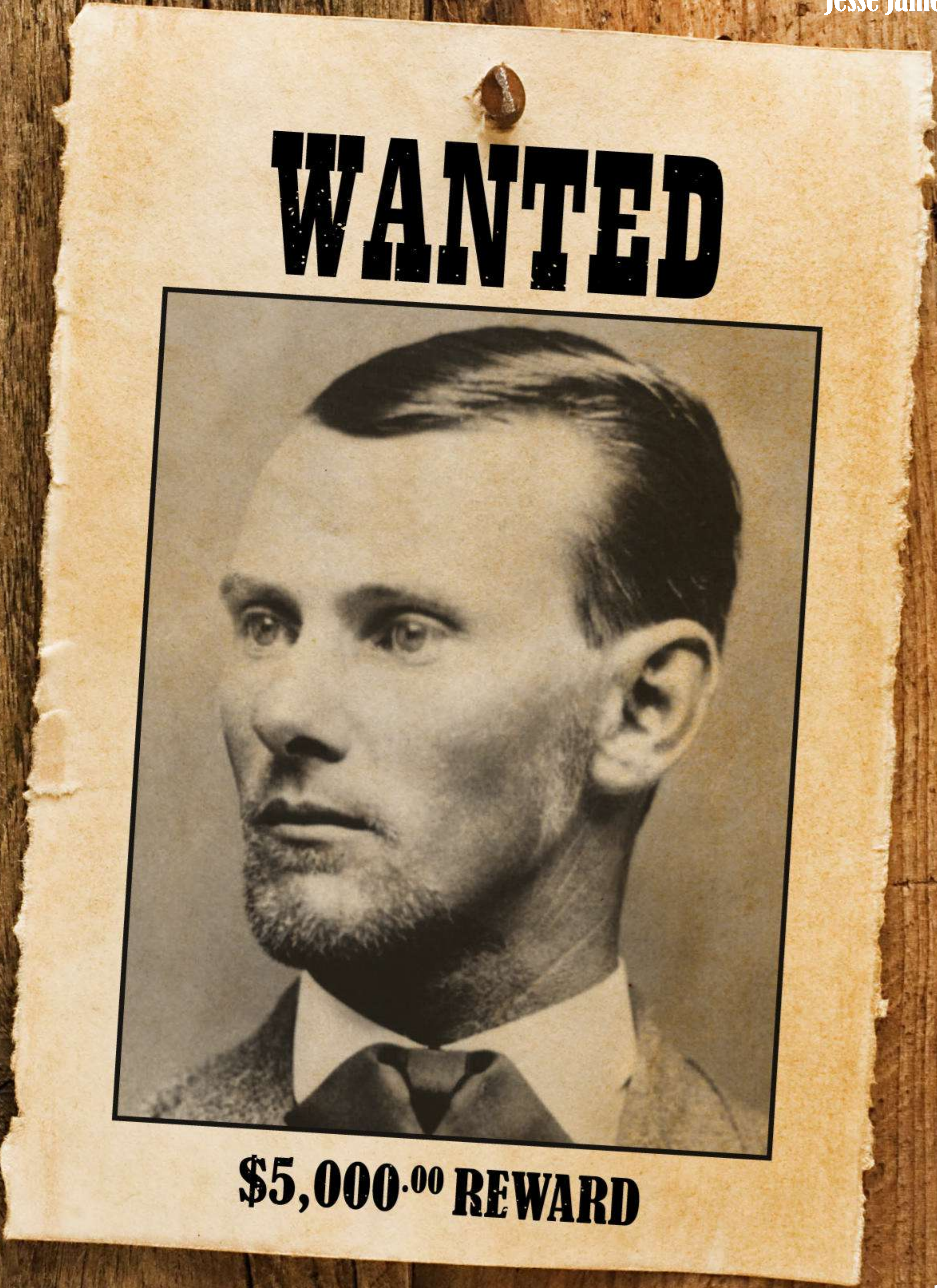
When the Union authorities expelled Jesse and Frank's family from Clay County, and after Anderson's death a few weeks later, the brothers split. Frank went into Kentucky with Quantrill and Jesse into Texas with Anderson's lieutenant, Archie Clement. In a fight with a Union patrol near Lexington, Jesse survived a second chest wound. Recovering at his uncle's house in nearby Harlem, he fell in love with his first cousin, Zerelda Mimms.

DEFINING MOMENT

TAKING THE REINS

When Frank James was identified as a member of a Confederate guerrilla unit operating in Clay County, a Union militia raided his family's farm. Jesse, then 15, witnessed the mock hanging of his stepfather Reuben Samuels. It is believed that the Jayhawkers whipped Jesse too. By the end of the year Jesse had joined Frank's militia unit.

May 1863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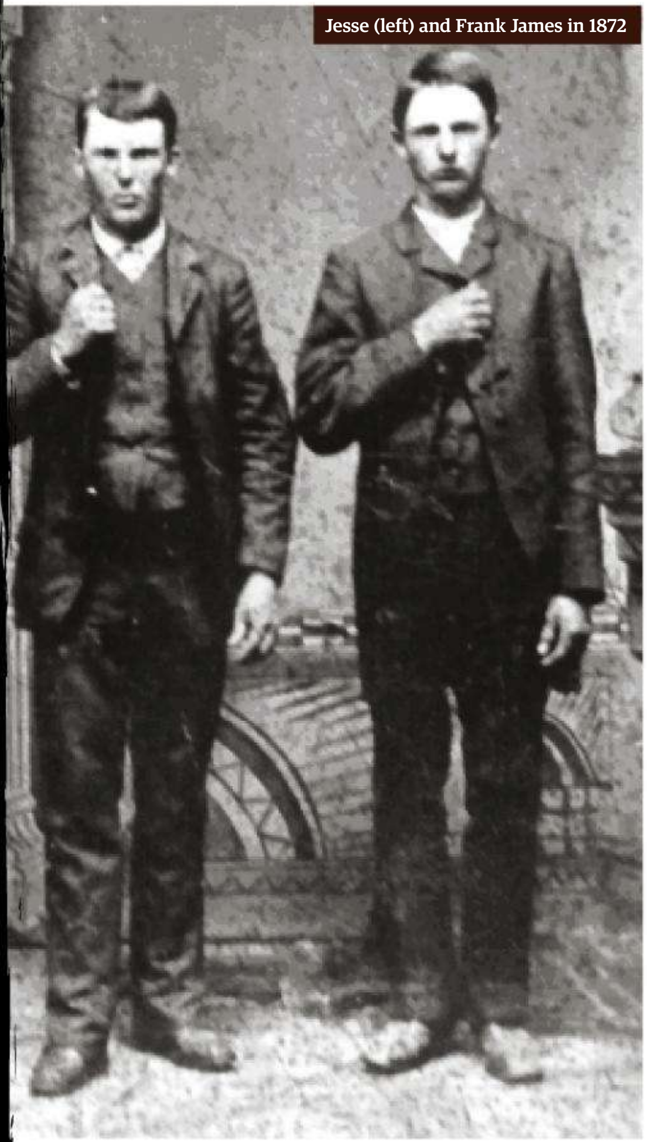


Jesse (left) and Frank James in 1872

Bob, Jim and Cole Younger, sitting left to right with their sister Henrietta

The war ended in 1865, but Jesse, like many Confederate veterans, failed to adjust to peace. The society he had known was in ruins, and the Republican government was set upon Reconstruction – the rebuilding of Southern society. The Bushwhackers carried on their war. In 1866, Clement's gang conducted the U.S.'s first armed bank robbery in a bank owned by Republican ex-Jayhawkers. A government militia killed Clement soon after, but his gang carried on robbing, killing civilians in the process.

In 1869, while raiding a bank in Missouri, Jesse murdered a cashier; he had mistaken him for the killer of 'Bloody Bill' Anderson. The killing, and the brothers' daring escape from the posse that chased them out of town, made Jesse the most famous of the ex-guerrilla 'outlaws'.

Jesse liked his fame. He formed an alliance with another ex-Confederate cavalryman, John Edwards, the editor of the *Kansas City Times*, who published letters in which James claimed his innocence, defended the Confederacy and denounced the Republicans. Edwards, who campaigned to undo Reconstruction by bringing ex-Confederates to office in Missouri, praised James for remaining true to old Dixie. The legend of Jesse James was born in the pages of the *Kansas City Times*.

Meanwhile, the James brothers teamed up with the Younger brothers, four ex-Bushwhackers from Missouri. For the next six years the gang ranged across Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri and Louisiana robbing banks, trains and stagecoaches. Numerous civilians were killed along the way, but the gang also acquired a reputation for chivalry. Not all of this was the work of John Edwards of the *Kansas City Times*.

In 1872, after a young girl had been shot in crossfire during a bank robbery at Columbia, Kentucky, Jesse wrote to the *Kansas City Times* denying that his men had shot her, even though by clearing his name so publicly he incriminated the Younger Brothers in the robbery. In January 1874, during a stagecoach robbery in Arkansas, the gang returned a watch to its owner when they discovered that he was a Confederate veteran. They told him that the North had driven them to crime. Two weeks later, when the gang robbed a train at Gads Hill, Missouri, they checked the passengers' hands so as to not steal from any manual labourers.

By now, the Pinkerton Detective Agency was on their trail. In January 1875, following the murder of several Pinkerton agents, a group of Pinkerton detectives firebombed the James family farm. Jesse's mother lost her right arm, and Jesse's nine-year-old half-brother Archie was killed.

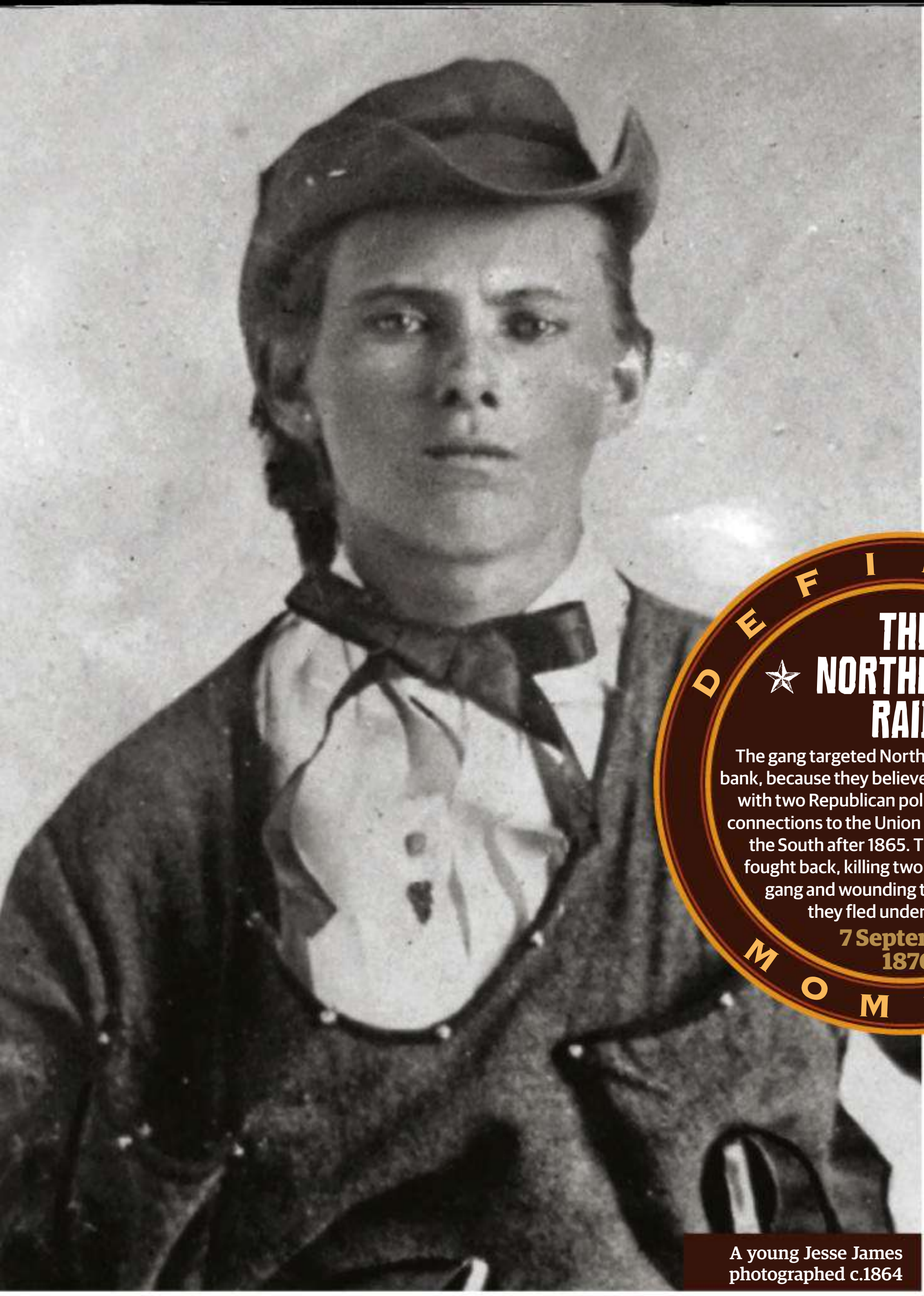
The gang's luck ran out on 7 September 1876 when it raided the First National Bank at Northfield, Minnesota. While Frank James, Bob Younger and an accomplice named Charlie Pitts held up the bank, Jesse James and four other men rode up and down the street, firing their guns in the air to keep people indoors. But the residents broke out their own weapons. Two of the gang were killed. Cole Younger was hit in the leg, Bob Younger in the arm, and Jim Younger in the face. The survivors escaped with only

DEFINING MOMENT

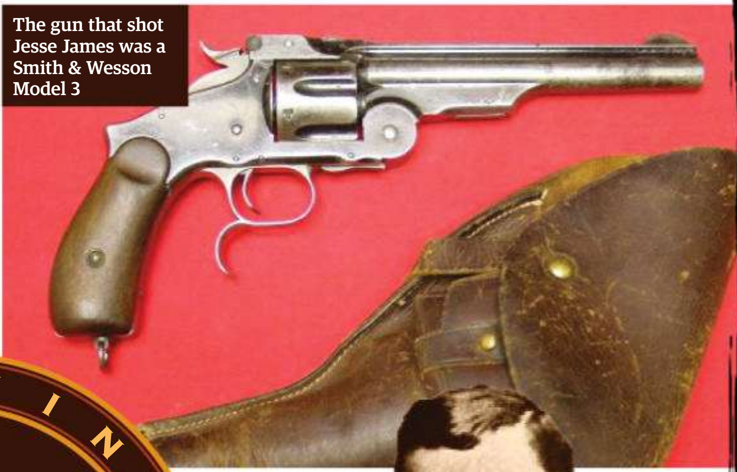
★ THE PINKERTON AGENCY FIREBOMBS THE FAMILY FARM ★

After the gang killed two agents the Pinkerton Agency had sent to infiltrate Zerelda Samuels' farm, Allen Pinkerton, founder of the detective agency, sought revenge. In the dead of night, detectives threw an incendiary into the farmhouse. Jesse's half-brother was killed, and Zerelda lost an arm.

25 January 1875



A young Jesse James photographed c.1864



The gun that shot Jesse James was a Smith & Wesson Model 3

DEFINING MOMENT

THE NORTHFIELD RAID

The gang targeted Northfield, Minnesota's bank, because they believed it to be associated with two Republican politicians, both with connections to the Union army that occupied the South after 1865. The townspeople fought back, killing two of the eight-man gang and wounding the other six as they fled under gunfire.

7 September 1876

Robert Ford, the man who shot Jesse James

> "WHEN THE GANG ROBBED A TRAIN AT GADS HILL, THEY CHECKED THE PASSENGERS' HANDS SO AS TO NOT STEAL FROM ANY MANUAL LABOURERS"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

a few bags of nickels, and all had been wounded - Jesse in the leg - as they fled.

Chased by hundreds of militiamen, the gang split up. Two weeks later, the Youngers and Charlie Pitts were captured after a gunfight near La Salle, Minnesota. Tried, they received life sentences.

Frank and Jesse escaped to a farm in Nashville, Tennessee. They lived quietly for the next three years until Jesse could no longer bear the tedium. In early 1879, he recruited a new gang and returned to crime. After a spree of train robberies, Missouri's new governor, Thomas T. Crittenden, persuaded his officials and the railroad executives to offer a large reward for James' capture. But no one turned the gang in: sympathy ran high among ex-Confederates.

Instead, James was murdered in his own home by one of his own men, a new recruit named Robert Ford. With his brother Charley, Robert Ford approached Governor Crittenden and agreed to solve the problem of Jesse James in return for a reward of $5,000. Just after breakfast on 3 April 1882, as an unarmed James climbed onto a chair in his living room to wipe dust from a picture, Robert Ford shot him in the back of the head at point-blank range.

In a single day, the Ford brothers surrendered, were indicted for murder, sentenced to death and then pardoned. The cowardly nature of James' killing, and the impression that Missouri's governor had conspired James' assassination, further burnished the legend of Jesse James. Charley Ford, a morphine addict, committed suicide the following year.

In June 1892, a man named Edward O'Kelley served the verdict of the court of public opinion on Robert Ford (in the saloon he'd opened after killing James) with both barrels of a shotgun. O'Kelley was sentenced to life in prison, but he was pardoned in October 1902 after a petition calling for his release was signed by thousands.

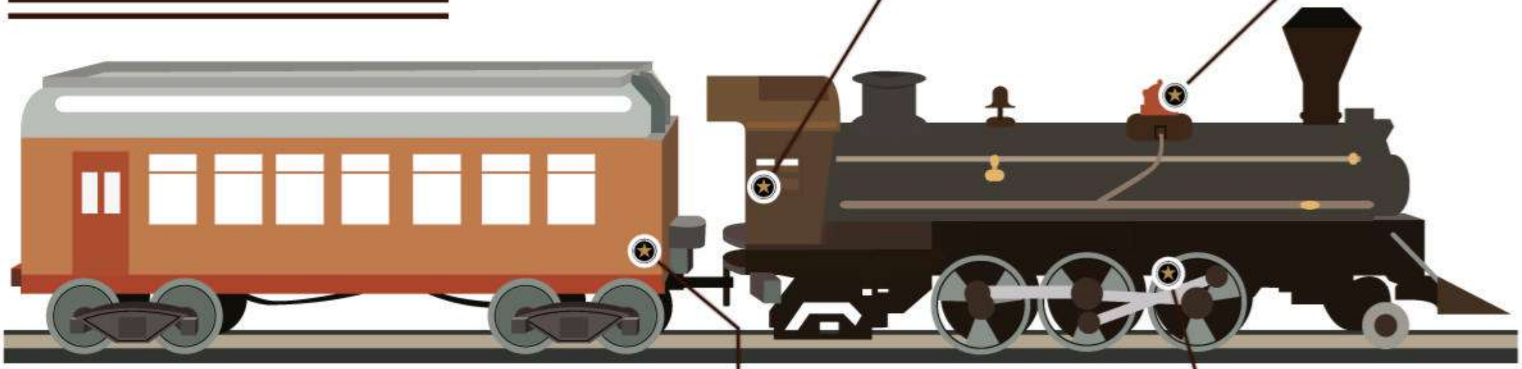
Surprisingly, several of the key members of the James-Younger Gang survived and played a part in maintaining the legend of Jesse James. Frank James surrendered in October 1882 in Missouri, apparently on the condition that he would not be extradited to Northfield, Minnesota. Frank was tried for two robberies in Missouri but convicted of neither.

The Younger brothers served time in a Minnesota prison but never assisted the prosecution of Frank James. Bob Younger died of tuberculosis in jail, but in 1901 Cole and Jim Younger were paroled on the condition they remained in Minnesota. Jim Younger shot himself in 1902. A year later, Cole Younger was pardoned on condition that he never return to Minnesota. He went home to Missouri and joined a 'Wild West' show with Frank James.

This was a different age: the Gilded Age of fantastic fortunes and populist politicians. Jesse James was remembered as a Robin Hood, an ordinary man who had stood up against powerful corporations, rather than the killer who had donned a Ku Klux Klan hood - and not just as a disguise. Jesse James robbed the rich - the banks and the railroads - but without feeding the poor. If he was loyal to his family and friends, he was also a habitual thief and killer.

© Alamy, Thinkstock

HOW TO ROB A TRAIN



Train crew

The train crew would typically consist of a driver, a fireman and an expressman. The expressman would be armed and guard the car.

Train

While there were many types of train during this period, but larger engines tended to be the ones that were robbed the most because of the valuables they carried.

Express car

The express car was where the train's valuables were held, including weapons and precious items locked away in onboard safes.

Speed

As trains could reach a top speed far superior to horses most robberies took place while the train was not in motion.

Essential equipment

COLT REVOLVER

U.S., 1872

Popular among outlaws because of its reliability and stopping power, the Colt .45 was simple to operate and easy to maintain.

MUSTANG HORSE

U.S., 1700s

Strong, hardy and fast, the breed of horse popularly known as the 'mustang' was used by lawman and outlaw alike.

DYNAMITE

England, 1867

This was revolutionary in the Wild West as a portable form of explosive that could quickly put a big hole in a solid object – like a safe.

DISGUISES

Worldwide, 19th century

Train robbers and thieves in general protected their identity from law enforcement throughout the period. Neckerchiefs to cover the face were very popular.

BOWIE KNIFE

U.S., 1830

The bowie knife was popular among outlaws during this period as a valuable tool and a weapon. It could be used for picking locks and cutting through packages.

The history of the Wild West is punctuated by the tales of lawless desperados breaking into banks and holding up runaway trains. This lawlessness was a product of the perceived freedom from central authority in the western settlements of America and the vulnerable position of trains as they travelled through open plains. Trains were a popular target because of the valuable goods they carried, often from the rich East-coast cities to the Wild West. Saddle up your horse and go make your fortune.

01 Assemble a posse

A train robber is only as good as the people around him acting as his posse. The robber needs people he can trust, who don't have too may moral scruples and won't get greedy or sell their fellow desperados out to the authorities. Butch Cassidy tended to work with his own gang of loyal friends – you'll need people like that.

02 Get the right train

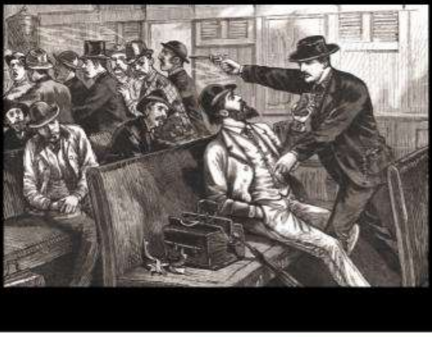
The best trains to hold up are the payroll carriages running federal money to soldiers and federal employees to the settlements of the Wild West. Find out when the next payroll train departs by checking schedules and listening in on conversations at local saloons, then plan how you are going to intercept its route.

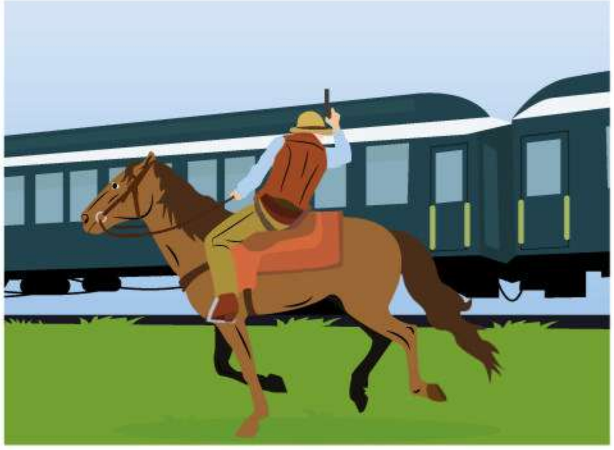
HOW NOT TO ROB A TRAIN

The Baxter's Curve Train Robbery in Sanderson, Texas, in March 1912 went down in history as one of the worst ever attempts to rob a train.

Ben Kilpatrick, originally a member of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch, and Ole Hobek boarded the Southern Pacific train in Dryden, Texas, and held up its crew. Hobek then led one of the crewmembers, David A. Trousdale, to the express car in order to de-couple its valuable contents from the rest of the train. Hobek wasn't keeping an eye on Trousdale though, which allowed him to conceal an ice mallet in his jacket.

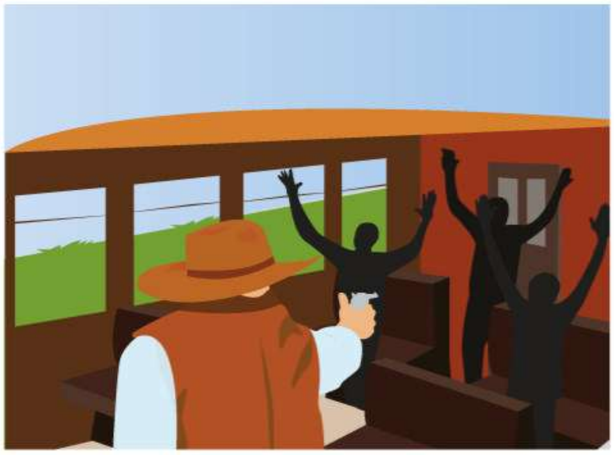
As Hobek bent down to pick up the packages in the express carriage, Trousdale jumped him and beat him to death. Trousdale then armed himself with Hobek's gun and waited for Kilpatrick to come down to the express car to find out what was going on. Kilpatrick eventually made it to the entrance of the carriage, and when he put his head through the door to look inside, Trousdale shot him dead.





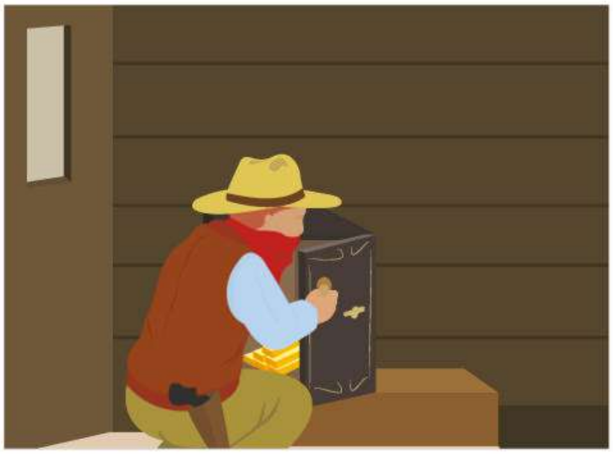
03 Board the train

Most train robberies do not take place while the train is in motion. The vast majority of robbers stop the train first and then board it. However, if time is of the essence, get some fast horses, find a part of track where the train will have to slow down, run the horses close to the express car and board with guns drawn.



04 Take 'em alive

It's not advantageous to any train robber to kill anyone. Dead train drivers can't drive the train and dead passengers can't reveal where the expensive valuables are kept. Keep your guns drawn and use them to intimidate the passengers and train crew but at the same time keep a cool head and your bullets in your chamber.



05 Crack the safe

The safe is generally in the express car, with a federal agent in charge of protecting it. While the agent is almost always armed, if you take the train by surprise he won't have time to defend himself. Disarm him and, with a gun levelled at his head, tell him to open the safe. If he refuses you might have to crack it yourself.

06 Escape

The best train robbery is a quick train robbery; contrary to popular belief, the Wild West is not lawless. Local law enforcement is around and it's armed to the teeth. Gather up the loot, get the driver to stop the train and ride your horses hard to a safe house. It's probably best to keep hidden for the next few days at least.

Infamous robbers

JESSE JAMES

Adair, Iowa , 1847-1882

Jesse James was arguably the most famous train robber. On one robbery, he and his gang wore Ku Klux Klan disguises and managed to steal $51,000 in Adair, Iowa.

BUTCH CASSIDY

New Mexico, 1866-1908

As part of his gang – known as the Wild Bunch – Cassidy robbed a train in New Mexico, resulting in a famous shootout with the law.

WILLIAM L. CARLISLE

Wyoming, 1890-1964

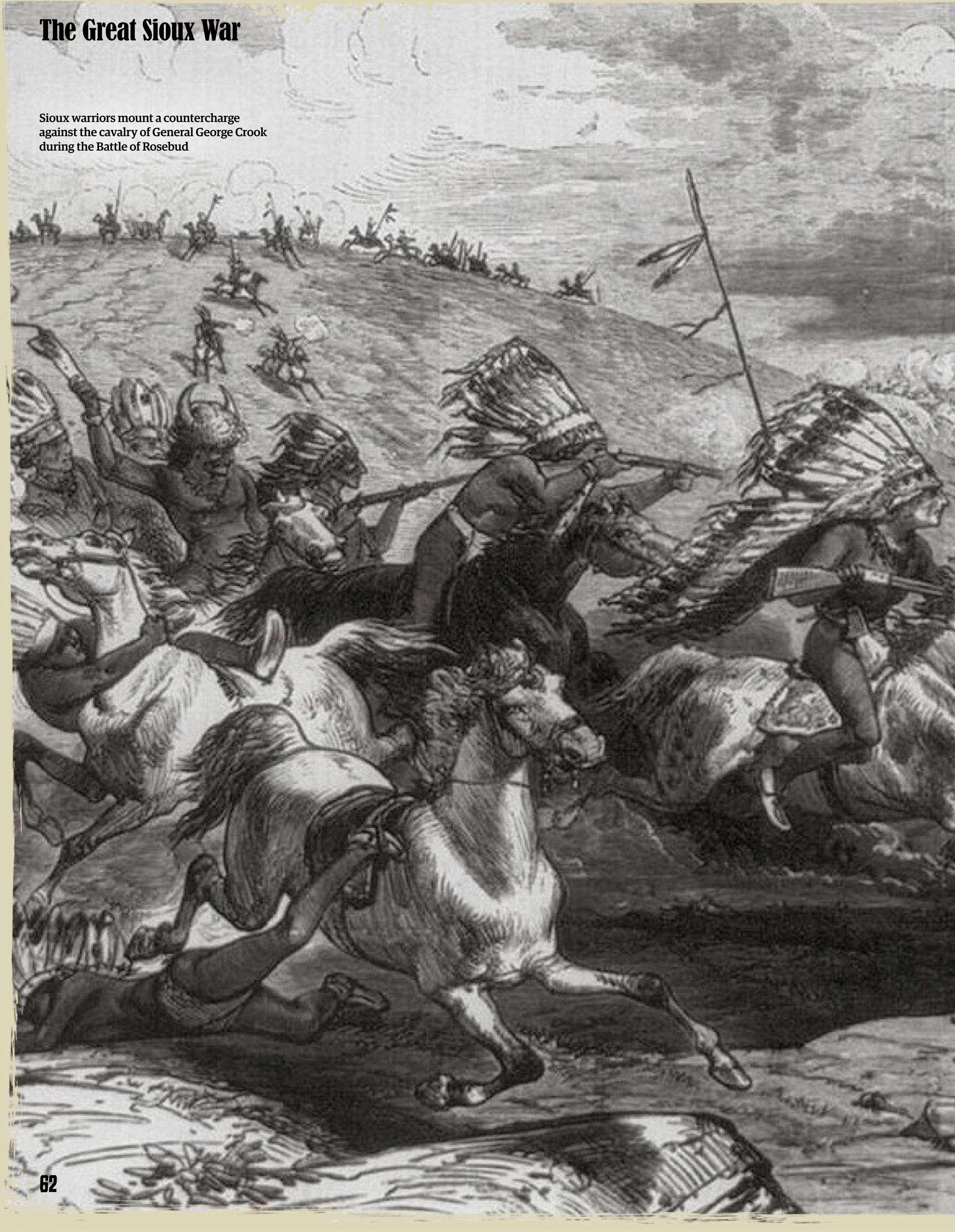
Known as the Robin Hood of the Rails, Carlisle was one of the last successful train robbers of the Wild West. He would reimburse guards for lost tips during his robberies.

BURT ALVORD

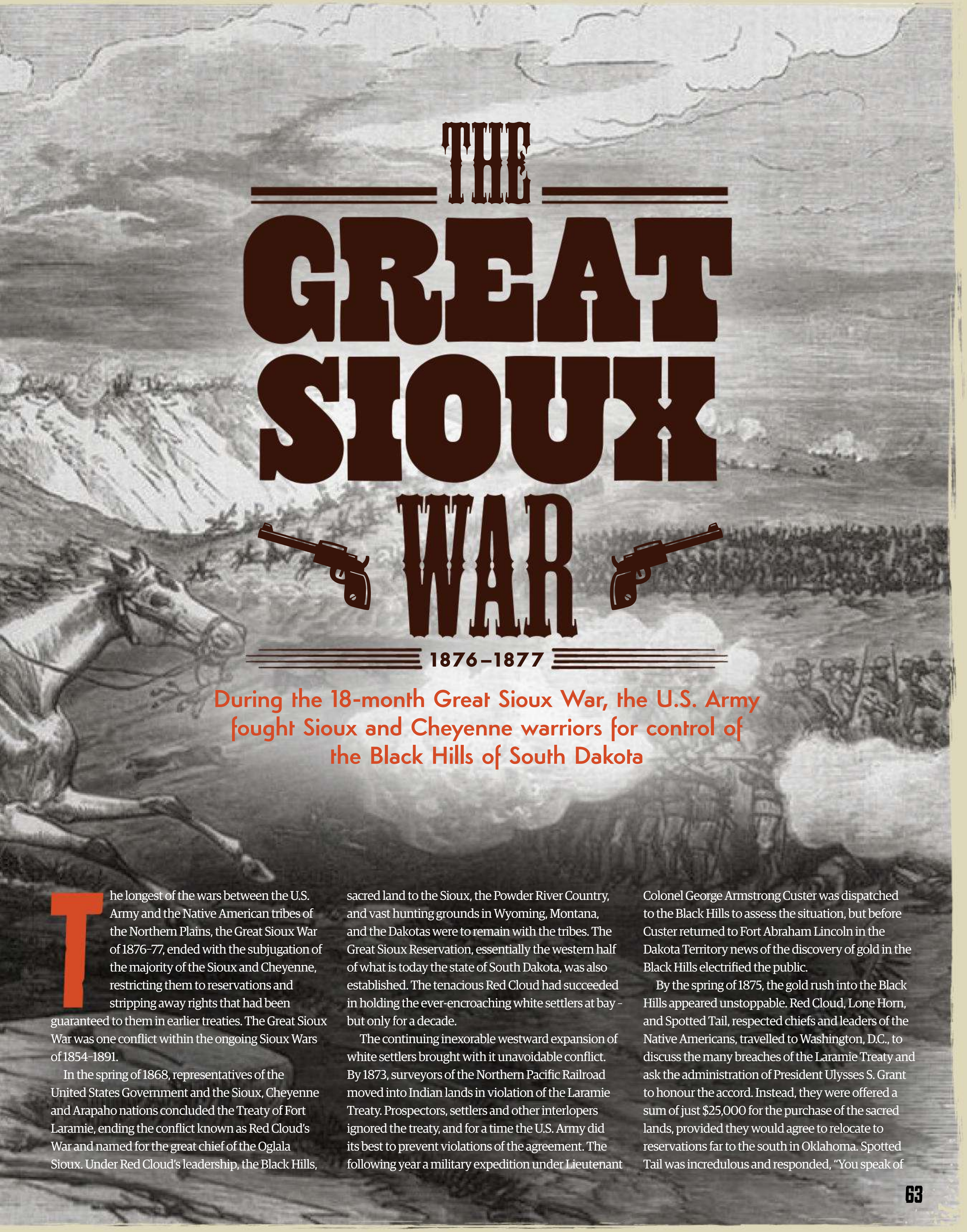
Cochise, Arizona, 1866-1910

Originally a lawman, he left that life behind to rob trains in 1899, making him a wanted man throughout the region.

© Corbis



Sioux warriors mount a countercharge against the cavalry of General George Crook during the Battle of Rosebud



THE GREAT SIOUX WAR

1876–1877

During the 18-month Great Sioux War, the U.S. Army fought Sioux and Cheyenne warriors for control of the Black Hills of South Dakota

The longest of the wars between the U.S. Army and the Native American tribes of the Northern Plains, the Great Sioux War of 1876–77, ended with the subjugation of the majority of the Sioux and Cheyenne, restricting them to reservations and stripping away rights that had been guaranteed to them in earlier treaties. The Great Sioux War was one conflict within the ongoing Sioux Wars of 1854–1891.

In the spring of 1868, representatives of the United States Government and the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho nations concluded the Treaty of Fort Laramie, ending the conflict known as Red Cloud's War and named for the great chief of the Oglala Sioux. Under Red Cloud's leadership, the Black Hills, sacred land to the Sioux, the Powder River Country, and vast hunting grounds in Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas were to remain with the tribes. The Great Sioux Reservation, essentially the western half of what is today the state of South Dakota, was also established. The tenacious Red Cloud had succeeded in holding the ever-encroaching white settlers at bay - but only for a decade.

The continuing inexorable westward expansion of white settlers brought with it unavoidable conflict. By 1873, surveyors of the Northern Pacific Railroad moved into Indian lands in violation of the Laramie Treaty. Prospectors, settlers and other interlopers ignored the treaty, and for a time the U.S. Army did its best to prevent violations of the agreement. The following year a military expedition under Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer was dispatched to the Black Hills to assess the situation, but before Custer returned to Fort Abraham Lincoln in the Dakota Territory news of the discovery of gold in the Black Hills electrified the public.

By the spring of 1875, the gold rush into the Black Hills appeared unstoppable. Red Cloud, Lone Horn, and Spotted Tail, respected chiefs and leaders of the Native Americans, travelled to Washington, D.C., to discuss the many breaches of the Laramie Treaty and ask the administration of President Ulysses S. Grant to honour the accord. Instead, they were offered a sum of just $25,000 for the purchase of the sacred lands, provided they would agree to relocate to reservations far to the south in Oklahoma. Spotted Tail was incredulous and responded, "You speak of another country, but it is not my country. It does not concern me, and I want nothing to do with it. I was not born there… If it is such a good country, you ought to send the white men now in our country there and let us alone."

Storm clouds were brewing as the more militant factions of the Sioux and Cheyenne under Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, who had refused to recognise the Laramie Treaty from the beginning, were preparing to fight. In November, President Grant met with General Phil Sheridan and General George Crook, commanders of the military divisions of the Missouri and the Platte, to plan a new course of action. Those attending agreed that it was impossible to prevent further encroachment into Native lands. There was little alternative short of coercion to bring the Native Americans to heel. As a pretext for initiating a military campaign against those who refused to return to their reservation and join in negotiations, the government established a deadline of 31 January 1876 for compliance.

It is estimated that the war claimed approximately 265 Native and over 300 American lives

While most of the Native Americans were already cooperating with the government, there remained approximately 7,000 Sioux, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho at large, including men, women and children. Of these, perhaps only 2,500 to 3,000 were warriors. As expected, there was little response to the government ultimatum. The deadline eventually passed, and the U.S. Army began to take action.

Although periodic skirmishes were nothing new – the U.S. Army had destroyed numerous troublesome Northern Cheyenne encampments since 1875 – the Great Sioux War was intended to settle the question of land ownership and the future of the Native American tribes once and for all. On 8 February 1876, General Sheridan ordered an offensive to begin.

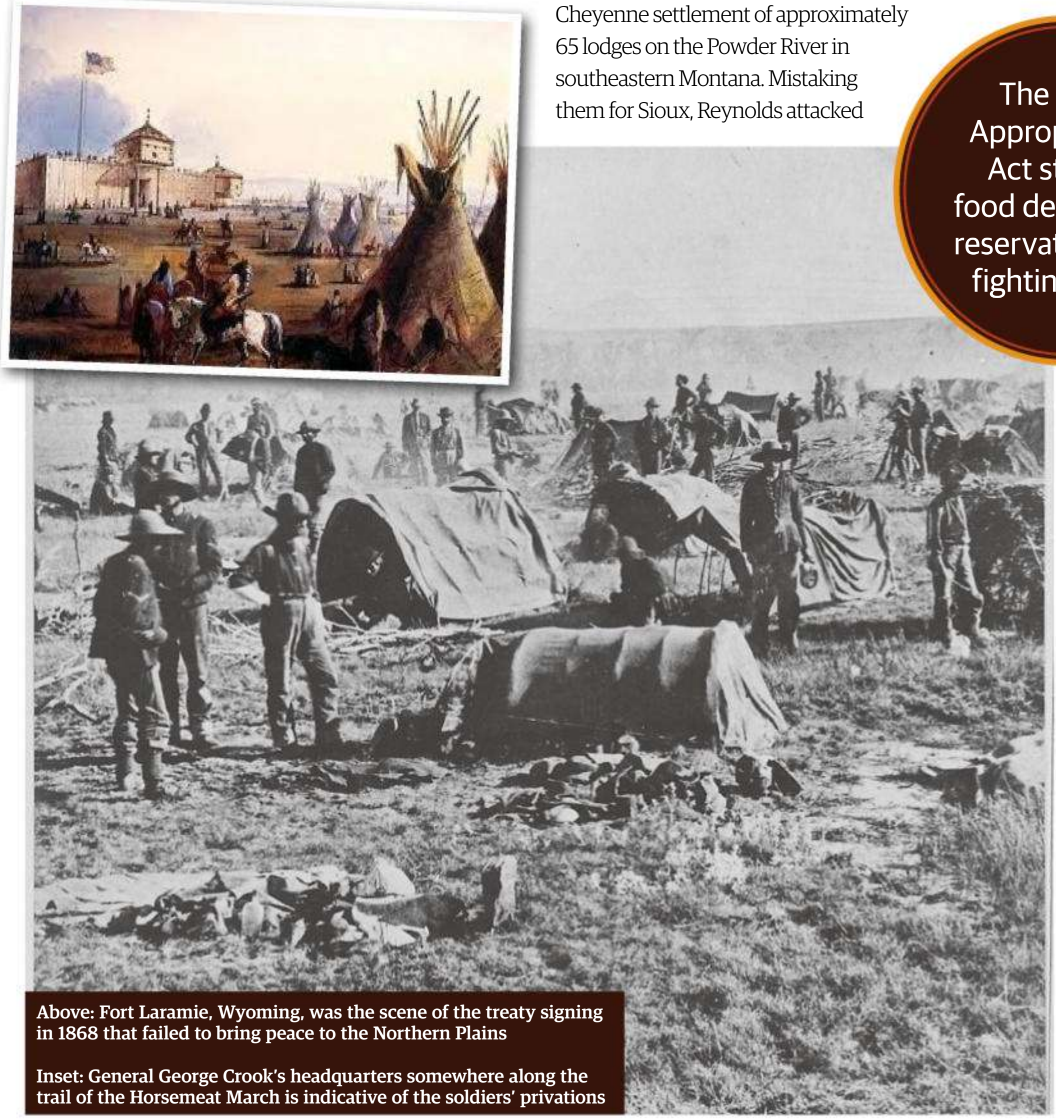
Six weeks after Sheridan's directive, General Crook sent Colonel Joseph J. Reynolds and six companies of the 2nd and 3rd Cavalry Regiments, 400 troopers strong, in the first of nine separate forays against the renegades. On 17 March, Reynolds struck a Northern Cheyenne settlement of approximately 65 lodges on the Powder River in southeastern Montana. Mistaking them for Sioux, Reynolds attacked at first light. After burning the village, the cavalrymen were quickly forced to retreat as a strong counterattack inflicted numerous casualties. Reynolds was later court-martialled for his apparently inept command during the fight, which left several dead and wounded troopers on the field.

In the early spring, a three-pronged operation began, with Crook leading a column north from Fort Fetterman in the Dakota Territory while a second force under Colonel John Gibbon struck out from Fort Ellis in the Montana Territory, and General Alfred Terry left Fort Abraham Lincoln with a large contingent of troopers, including the entire 7th Cavalry Regiment under Custer. If successful, their manoeuvres would trap the hostile Natives between their converging columns. On 17 June, Crook engaged a larger force of Sioux and Northern Cheyenne under Crazy Horse along Rosebud Creek in Montana. The six-hour battle left approximately 60 cavalrymen and as many as 100 Natives dead or wounded. Crook was stopped cold. Meanwhile, Terry detached Custer to scout the valleys of the Rosebud and the Bighorn River.

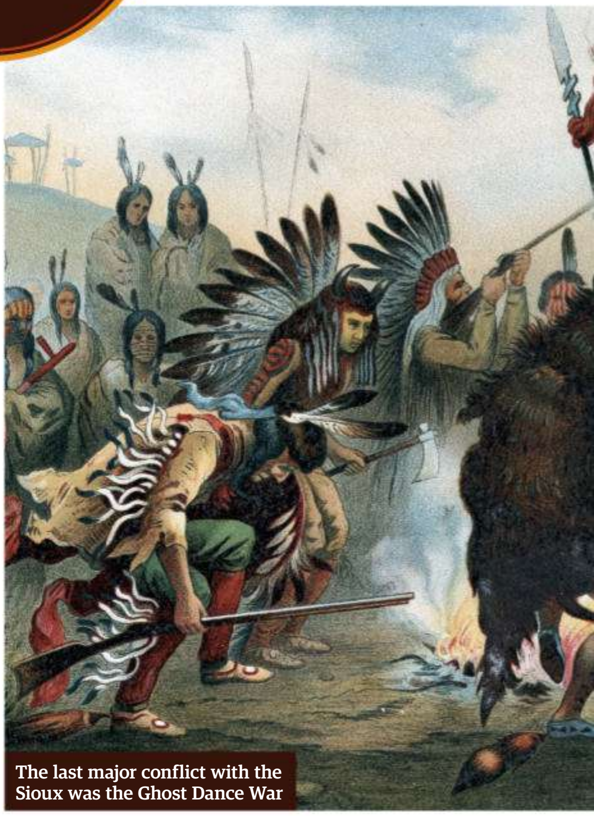
On 25 June, Custer came to grief at the Little Bighorn, overwhelmed by a force of Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho in what came to be known as his legendary "Last Stand."

Stunned by the shocking defeat at the Little Bighorn, Crook advanced once again a few days later, briefly joining forces with the remainder of Terry's command. No appreciable contact was made with the Natives, and Crook turned south

The Indian Appropriations Act stopped food deliveries to reservations until fighting ended


Above: Fort Laramie, Wyoming, was the scene of the treaty signing in 1868 that failed to bring peace to the Northern Plains

Inset: General George Crook's headquarters somewhere along the trail of the Horsemeat March is indicative of the soldiers' privations


The last major conflict with the Sioux was the Ghost Dance War

in search of provisions. As autumn closed in, Crook's fruitless foray became known as the 'Horsemeat March' because his cavalrymen were forced to kill and eat their spent mounts. On 9 September, he happened upon a small camp of Sioux and Cheyenne at Slim Buttes, within the boundaries of the Sioux reservation. After pillaging the village and burning the lodges, Crook's troopers killed a number of Natives and compelled the survivors to surrender. Meanwhile, Sitting Bull's loyal warriors raided wagon trains filled with supplies along the Yellowstone River. Cavalry under Colonel Nelson Miles gave chase but failed to corner the marauders. By the end of October, though, several hundred Natives had surrendered alongside the riverbank.

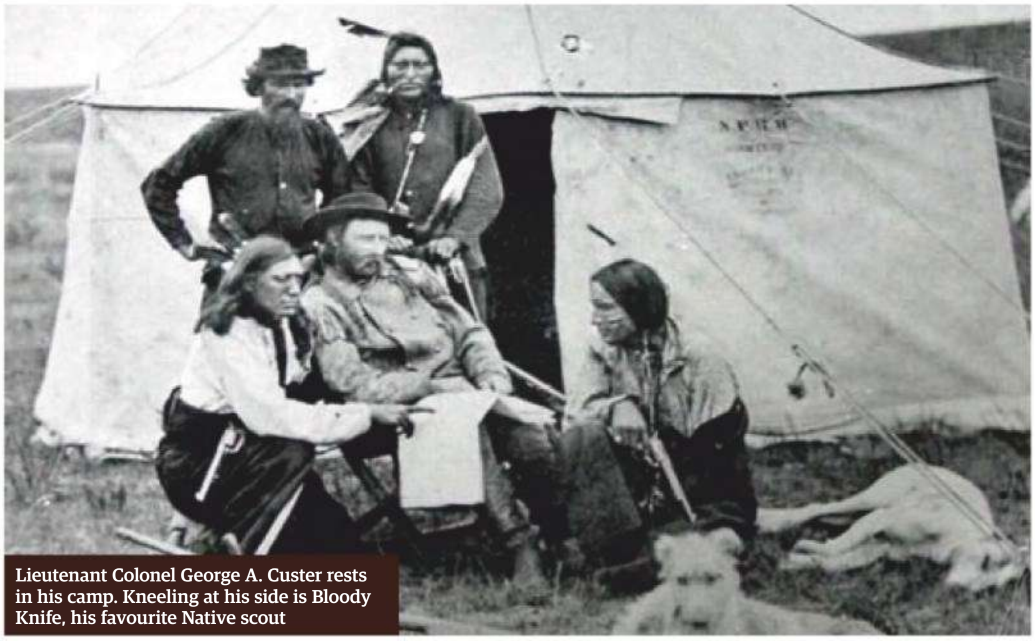
Days earlier Colonel Ranald Mackenzie had led the 4th Cavalry Regiment out of Camp Robinson in the Nebraska Territory. On 25 November, the horse soldiers destroyed a large Northern Cheyenne village and defeated a band of warriors led by Dull Knife and Little Wolf at the Battle on the Red Fork in Wyoming. In early December, Lieutenant Frank Baldwin and a contingent of cavalry caught the tail of Sitting Bull's weakening column as it crossed the Missouri River, fighting a brief engagement. Soon Sitting Bull led his people north across the Canadian frontier.

With the prospect of a hard winter looming, Colonel Miles advanced to the valley of the Tongue River in Montana, establishing a post that later became Fort Keogh. On 8 January 1877, Miles tangled with Crazy Horse in the Battle of Wolf Mountain. After several hours of fighting, Crazy Horse withdrew and the battle ended in a tactical draw. A wave of surrender overtures followed as several delegations of Sioux and Cheyenne left their reservations temporarily and convinced some groups of Natives to surrender. Within days, followers of Crazy Horse, Touch The Clouds, Roman Nose, Dull Knife and Standing Elk began to filter away from their camps and toward the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies in the Nebraska Territory. The agencies were depots constructed for the distribution of food, clothing, and other essentials under the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty.

A diehard band of Sioux led by Lame Deer continued to resist, and the last major engagement of the Great Sioux War occurred on 7 May at the Battle of Little Muddy Creek. Miles attacked the Indian encampment in the early morning, and an attempt to negotiate surrender terms deteriorated quickly into a close-quarter fight. Lame Deer was killed along with up to 13 other Natives and four soldiers. For three more months the cavalrymen chased down stragglers and holdouts. With a skirmish along the Little Missouri River on 4 July 1877, the war finally sputtered to a close.

Stirrings against the white man's regular breaches of its treaties never completely subsided, however, the Native Americans of the Northern Plains ultimately saw their way of life change forever.

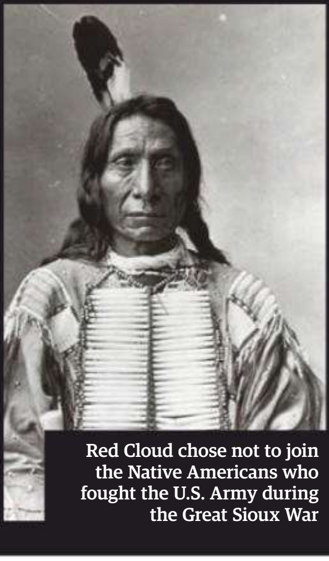
After the Battle of Slim Buttes, cavalrymen found that their opponents had participated in Custer's Last Stand


Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer rests in his camp. Kneeling at his side is Bloody Knife, his favourite Native scout

Sioux leader Red Cloud

Although he is remembered often as a chief, Red Cloud had no formal claim to the title. However, he earned the respect of his people and of his adversaries. Born in the Nebraska Territory near the forks of the Platte River in 1822, he was raised in the home of his maternal uncle, Old Chief Smoke. As a young man, Red Cloud gained notoriety as a brave warrior in combat against the rival Crow, Shoshone, Ute and Pawnee tribes.

In 1865, the U.S. Army began to build a string of forts along the Bozeman Trail through Sioux lands in the Wyoming and Montana Territories. Alarmed by the threat of white settlement, Red Cloud staged a series of raids against the forts. In December 1866, he led an allied force of Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors that massacred 80 soldiers and civilian scouts under Captain William Fetterman near Fort Phil Kearny, Wyoming. The so-called Red Cloud's War was the most successful war fought by Native Americans against the U.S. Army. When the conflict ended in 1868 the Fort Laramie Treaty gained concessions for the Native Americans. Red Cloud remained a controversial spokesman for his people and died at the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1909.


Red Cloud chose not to join the Native Americans who fought the U.S. Army during the Great Sioux War

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SITTING BULL

A Sioux chief and spiritual leader, the boy they once called Slow was quick to protect his people and their traditional way of life

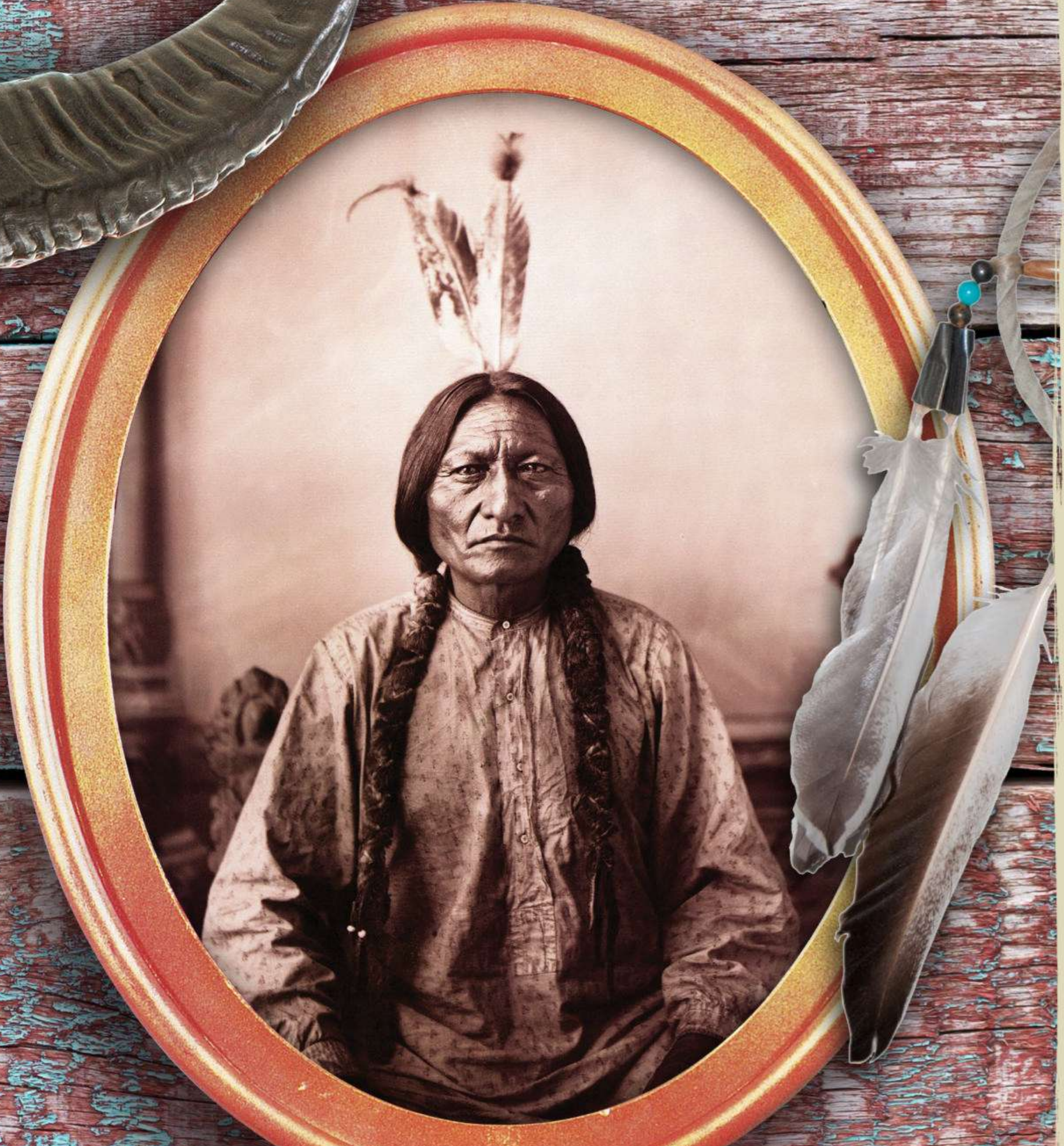
After two days of fierce fighting near the Little Bighorn River on the plains of eastern Montana in 1876, around 700 men led by George Armstrong Custer were defeated by a confederation of 3,000 warriors from Native American tribes. Custer himself was killed, as were two of his brothers, a nephew and a brother-in-law. The total U.S. casualty count was 268 dead and 55 injured. For Lakota chief and holy man Sitting Bull, this was a great victory in the violent and desperate struggle for the Sioux tribes' survival on the North American Great Plains. It was also the realisation of a vision the medicine man had experienced at a ceremony not three months earlier.

Throughout the 19th century, native Sioux tribes had been pushed further and further west as white settlers expanded into the American heartland from the colonies on the eastern seaboard. The Great Sioux War of the 1870s culminated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, where Custer's infamous last stand took place. The Natives saw the battle as their last chance to save their homelands and they fought with desperation and determination. "The whites want a war and we will give it to them", said Sitting Bull. After decades of seeing tribes lose their ancestral land to white men and being forced to live on government-controlled reservations, the tribes united in their struggle for survival under the leadership of Sitting Bull, who remained defiant toward American military power and contemptuous of American promises.

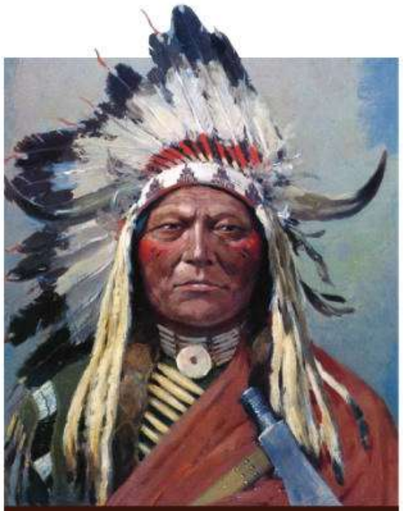
Born on the Grand River in present-day South Dakota, Sitting Bull was originally named Slow by his chieftain father because he was always very careful and slow to take action as a young child. Slow grew up as a typical child in the Lakota Sioux tribe. He learned how to ride horses, shoot with a bow and hunt buffalo, and he dreamt of one day becoming a great warrior. A scout who met Sitting Bull when he was still a boy described him in a later account as "a boy of rather stocky appearance, not 'straight as an arrow' like the traditional Indian. He was fearless under all circumstances, a magnificent rider, an accurate shot and capable of enduring an extraordinary amount of fatigue."

At 14, Slow joined his first war party, taking part in a battle against the Crow tribe, where he bravely charged a warrior and knocked him down. When the party returned to camp, Slow's father gave him the name Sitting Bull in honour of his bravery. It was a name he would live up to throughout his life.

Because his tribe lived and hunted north of the early routes of western travel, Sitting Bull had little contact with white men until the 1862 Santee Sioux uprising, an armed conflict between the U.S. and



Sitting Bull was regarded as a spiritual leader whose visions gave him sacred powers



Native Americans were rounded up in reservations by the U.S. Government

What he was fighting against

INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Toward the end of the 19th century, following decades of westward expansion, the U.S. signed treaties with surrendering Native Americans or conquered those who resisted encroachment into their homelands. In exchange for large tracts of land and the valuable natural resources they contained, the government agreed to provide reservations, off-limits to new white settlers.

THE END OF TRADITIONS

Beside the moral problem of depriving a people of life on their historic land, many issues plagued the reservations. Nomadic tribes, now confined, lost their means of subsistence. Farmers found themselves with land unsuitable for agriculture, and hostile tribes were often forced into the same areas. The results were disastrous.

DRIVEN TO WAR

After treaties were made with the Plains Indians in 1861, white miners were able to cross the Great Plains by using the Bozeman Trail, with the U.S. Army building forts along the trail to protect them. The trail ran through the Sioux' buffalo hunting grounds, rendering their traditional way of life almost impossible to observe. The Sioux responded with war.

LOSS OF MORE LAND

In 1887, the Dawes General Allotment Act was passed. It tried to weaken traditional bonds of Indian society by making land ownership private rather than shared. The government broke up reservation land and distributed it to individuals, selling the remainder. It reduced the remaining Native American-controlled land by about two-thirds.

MASSACRE AT WOUNDED KNEE

When Sioux tribes protested, the U.S. Army rounded up and later killed at 150-300 Natives at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota in 1890. Because of this massacre, the Ghost Dance, a religious movement prophesying the return of buffalo herds and disappearance of the settlers, gradually died out.

several bands of the eastern Sioux. The defeated Sioux were driven west to the plains, where Sitting Bull, now a chief himself, heard what life was like on a government-controlled reservation and began to understand that pacts with white men rarely lasted. Desperate for his people to retain their culture, traditions and sacred lands, Sitting Bull resolved to keep his tribe away from the white man's world and never to sign a treaty that would force them to live on a reservation.

Sitting Bull's disdain for treaties and reservation life soon attracted a large following, not only from the Sioux but from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes as well. Widely respected for his bravery and insight, he became head chief of the Lakota nation from around 1868. In early encounters with U.S. soldiers encroaching on native territory, Sitting Bull learned their ways of fighting, strengths and weaknesses. He combined this analytical approach with raw courage. Once, during a battle with soldiers protecting railroad workers on the Yellowstone River, Sitting Bull led four other warriors out between the lines, sat calmly sharing a pipe with them as bullets buzzed around, before casually walking away.

However, the relative peace and tentative expansion of territory by white settlers was shattered in 1874 when gold was discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota, an area sacred to many tribes and placed off-limits to white settlement by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. Prospectors eager to make their fortune rushed to the Black Hills in spite of the treaty, provoking the Lakota to defend their sacred land. The U.S. ordered all Sioux that lived outside the Indian Reservation to move inside it. Sitting Bull refused, saying that reservations were like prisons and he would not be "shut up in a corral".

As the U.S. forces began to hunt down the Sioux, Sitting Bull formed a war camp. In 1876, as three columns of federal troops moved into the area, the Indian chief summoned the Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes to his camp on Rosebud Creek in Montana Territory. There he led them in the sun dance ritual, offering prayers to Wakan Tanka, their great spirit, and slashing his arms 100 times as a sign of sacrifice. During this ceremony, Sitting Bull had a vision in which he saw soldiers falling into the Lakota camp like grasshoppers falling from the sky; the prophecy would become a reality at Little Bighorn three months later.

Having moved their encampment to the Little Bighorn and gained the support of more warriors, the tribes were attacked on 25 June by the 7th Cavalry under Custer, whose badly outnumbered troops first rushed the encampment, as if in fulfilment of Sitting Bull's vision, and then made a last doomed stand on a nearby ridge, where they were destroyed. The event marked the most decisive Native American victory and the worst U.S. Army defeat in the long Plains Wars. The demise of Custer and his men outraged many white Americans and confirmed to them their image of the Indians as wild and bloodthirsty. The U.S. Government increased its efforts to subdue the tribes and sent thousands more cavalrymen to the area. Over the next year they relentlessly pursued the Lakota, forcing chief after chief to surrender. But Sitting Bull remained defiant. In 1877 he led his band across the border into Canada, beyond the reach of the U.S. Army, and when he was offered a pardon in exchange for settling on a reservation he angrily refused the proposal.

However, living in a land without buffalo was almost impossible, and, finding it difficult to feed his people, Sitting Bull finally came south to surrender after four long years. He was sent to Standing Rock Reservation, but when his reception there raised fears that he might inspire a fresh uprising he was sent further down the Missouri River to Fort Randall, where he and his followers were held for nearly two years as prisoners of war. Finally, in 1883, Sitting Bull re-joined his tribe at Standing Rock Reservation. Those in charge were determined to deny the great chief any special privileges, even forcing him to work

DEFINING MOMENT

FORGING RESOLVE

Sitting Bull was one of the defenders when General Alfred Sully used artillery against a Teton encampment at Killdeer Mountain. After the event he vowed to keep his people away from the white man's world and never to sign a treaty that would force them to leave their land and live on a government-controlled reservation.

July 1864

TIMELINE

1831

Born to the Lakota tribe
Sitting Bull, or, in the Sioux language, Tatanka Yotanka, is born in the Grand River Valley in what is now South Dakota. His chieftain father, Jumping Bull, names him Slow as a child for his thoughtful and reserved nature.

1845

First battle
Sitting Bull first goes into battle in a raid on another tribe, the Crow. After the battle he earns his now-famous adult name for his bravery. 'Sitting Bull' refers to a recalcitrant bull sitting on its haunches.

1862

Learning about the white man
Because the Lakota Sioux live and hunt north of the early routes of western travel, Sitting Bull has little contact with whites until the Santee Sioux uprising in Minnesota.

1865

Gaining experience
Beginning in the summer, columns of U.S. soldiers repeatedly invade the Powder River country. Sitting Bull has occasional encounters with them, learning their ways of fighting, their strengths and weaknesses.

Sitting Bull photographed in 1885

in the fields, hoe in hand. But Sitting Bull still knew his own authority, and when a delegation of U.S. senators came to discuss opening part of the reservation to white settlers, he spoke forcefully – though ultimately in vain – against their plan.

Two years later Sitting Bull was allowed to leave the reservation to join Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, earning $50 a week for riding once around the arena, in addition to whatever he could charge for his autograph and picture. There he met President Grover Cleveland as well as the famous sharpshooter Annie Oakley, who said the Sioux warrior "made a great pet of me". However, life on the road was unpleasant, with crowds often hissing, while the newspapers termed Sitting Bull "as mild mannered a man as ever cut a throat or scalped a helpless woman". He stayed only four months with the show, unable to tolerate white society or the damage to his pride any longer.

Returning to Standing Rock, he lived in a cabin on the Grand River near his birthplace. Soon after his return he had another mystical vision. This time he saw a meadowlark alight on a hillock beside him and heard it say, "Your own people, Lakotas, will kill you."

In the autumn of 1890, a Lakota named Kicking Bear came to Sitting Bull with news of the Ghost Dance, a ceremony that promised to rid the land of white people. Lakota had already adopted the ceremony at the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations, and Indian agents there had called for troops to bring the growing movement under control. At Standing Rock, the authorities feared that Sitting Bull, revered as a spiritual leader, would join the Ghost Dancers and so sent 43 Lakota policemen to bring him in. Before dawn on 15 December 1890, the policemen burst into Sitting Bull's cabin and dragged him outside, where his followers were gathering to protect him. In the ensuing gunfight, one of the Lakota policemen put a bullet through Sitting Bull's head.

Chief Sitting Bull is remembered among the Lakota not only as an inspirational leader but also as a loving father, a gifted singer, a man who was always affable and friendly toward others and whose deep religious faith gave him prophetic insight and lent special power to his prayers. He inherited from his father the chieftainship of a part of the Sioux tribe, but his remarkable ascendancy over other tribes was thanks to his spiritual leadership, his talents as a politician and an unshakable determination to preserve his people's way of life.

DEFINING MOMENT

BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN

Determined to resist U.S. efforts to force them onto reservations, Natives under the leadership of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse wiped out Lieutenant Colonel George Custer and much of his 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. It was the Natives' greatest victory and the army's worst defeat in the long and bloody Plains Wars.

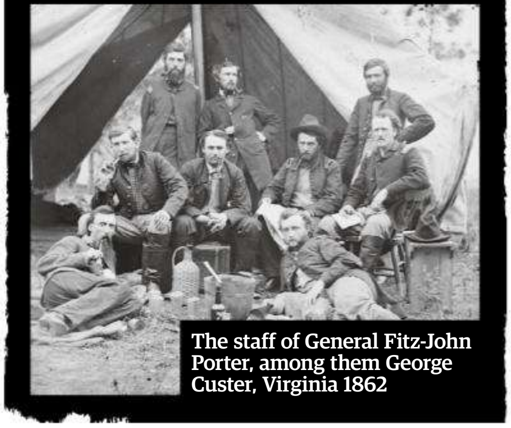
June 1876

How he defeated Custer

Lieutenant Colonel George Custer is remembered for his famous 'last stand' along the Little Bighorn River. Born in Ohio in 1839, Custer graduated at the bottom of his military academy class and was court-marshalled for not obeying his duties as an officer of the guard. With the Civil War raging, though, he was not punished. Custer proved himself a worthy officer in that brutal war and aged just 23 was the youngest officer ever to make the rank of general. However, after the war he was stripped of his commission.

Having enlisted in the regular army in 1866, Custer only strengthened his reputation for not following orders. In 1868, he led an attack on a band of Southern Cheyenne, even though the tribe had given in to the demands of the U.S. Government and were flying the white flag of truce on the morning of Custer's attack.

In 1876, Custer was sent to lead a force to defeat Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne warriors. On 25 June, Custer's scouts told him that a gigantic Indian camp lay in the valley of the Little Bighorn River. Dismissing the scouts' claim that the camp was extraordinarily large as exaggerated, Custer split his force in order to attack the encampment from two sides. However, he had miscalculated the number of Indian warriors and the depth of the river he had to cross. It took less than an hour for the Native Americans' arrows and bullets to wipe out General Custer and his men.


The staff of General Fitz-John Porter, among them George Custer, Virginia 1862

1868

Increasing influence
Another Lakota leader, Red Cloud, signs the Fort Laramie Treaty and then agrees to lead his people to life on a reservation. In the aftermath, Red Cloud's influence wanes and Sitting Bull's grows in turn.

1874

Plains gold rush
Gold is discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The U.S. wants access to the gold without interference from Natives. They order all Sioux living outside the Sioux Reservation to move inside it. Sitting Bull refuses.

1881

Return and surrender
Having fled over the border to Canada after the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Sitting Bull surrenders to the U.S. and is held as a prisoner of war for a time at Fort Randall in South Dakota Territory.

1883

Living on a reservation
Sitting Bull is permitted to live on Standing Rock Reservation, where he continues to use his influence among the Native Americans to attempt to keep Sioux lands from being taken by the government.

1885

Travelling show
Sitting Bull travels for a season with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show. However, he can only tolerate white company for a few months due to their hostile behaviour toward him, and he soon returns to the reservation.

1890

Death of a leader
A U.S. Indian agent at Fort Yates fears the Lakota leader will flee the reservation. Eight policemen and seven of Sitting Bull's supporters are killed in an ensuing fight, along with the great man himself.

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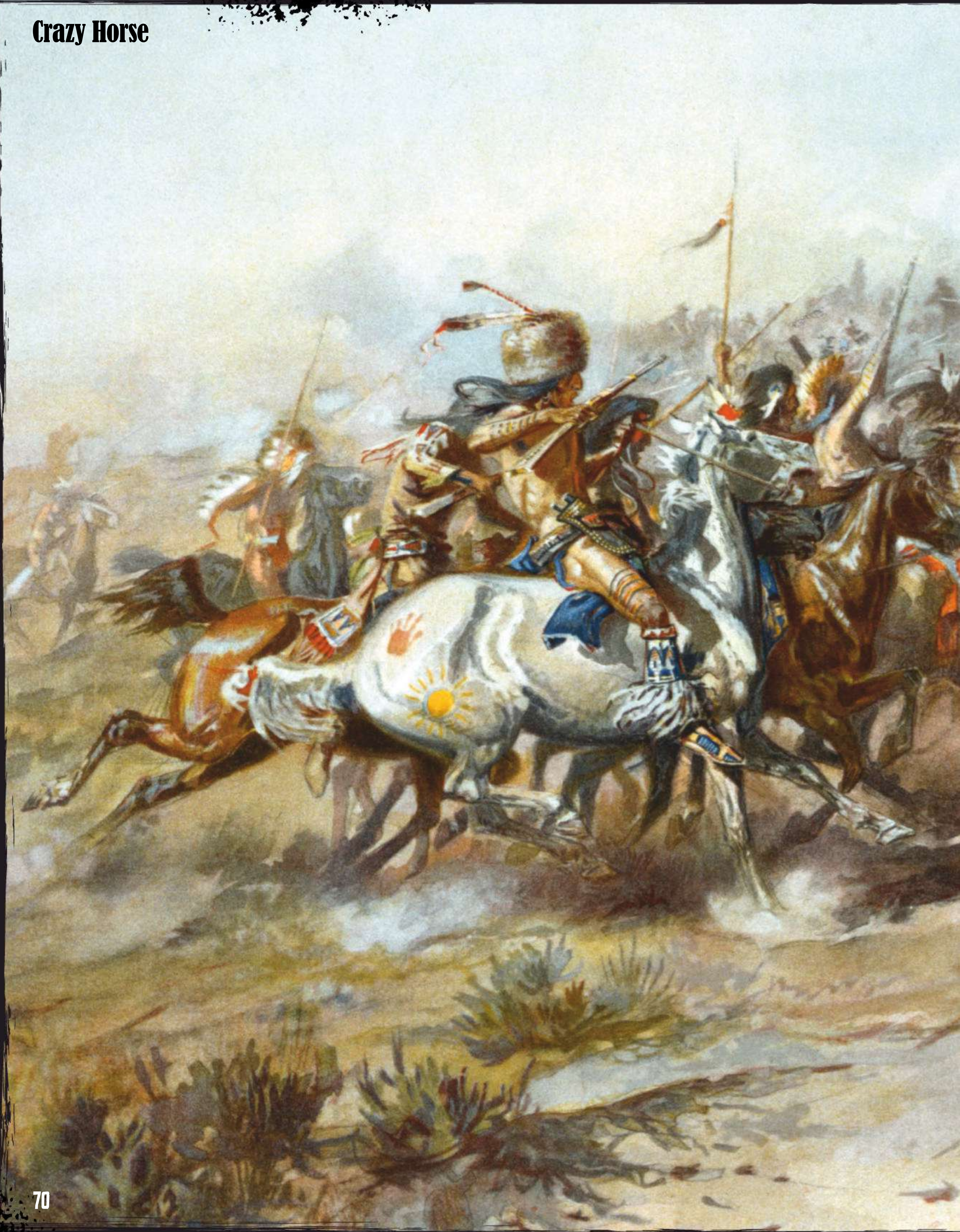


CRAZY HORSE THE BRAVEST of THE BRAVE

BY MARC DeSANTIS

The Lakota Sioux warrior chief Crazy Horse defied American expansion across the Great Plains

Ta-Sunko-Witko. Crazy Horse. A legend of the Wild West. He remains an elusive figure. The truth about him is difficult to discern, and there are many uncertainties about his life. Perhaps surprisingly for one of the most famous of all Native Americans, there are no certain photographs of Crazy Horse. It is said that he would not allow his picture to be taken because he worried that his soul might thereby be stolen.

Born around 1842, Crazy Horse's father was a holy man of the Oglala tribe of the Lakota (Sioux) people. His mother, Rattling Blanket Woman, was from another Sioux tribe, possibly the Brule, or maybe the Miniconjou. Crazy Horse was himself described as having light hair and skin and is said to have stood about five foot eight. Unlike many other Indians, he did not have high cheekbones.

Contrary to what his name might suggest, Crazy Horse was a careful warrior. In combat, when needed, he would get off his horse and plant his feet on the ground for steadier, more accurate shooting. He was careful also in his preparation for battle. He was reluctant to go into a fight without planning the engagement so that he could be sure of victory.

Crazy Horse's courage was at times extraordinary. In one encounter with U.S. soldiers, he rode up and down with just a lance, daring them to shoot. Originally named 'Curly', it is said that the name by which he is known to history was given to him (it had been his father's name) in honour of the bravery that he displayed in battle with Arapaho Indians. With the name now applied to his son, his father took the name of 'Worm' as a replacement.

Crazy Horse's was serious and humble character. He would not boast about his deeds, and he refused to collect scalps as trophies of battle held no interest for him. A noted loner, he was observant, and little escaped his notice. When still a boy he would listen to adults conversing, and he would remain a listener into adulthood. He attended a scant number of tribal councils, listening closely to what was being said.

The Gold Rush of 1849 occasioned the movement of numerous white Americans westward across the Great Plains. The mounting tensions between the Indians and the Americans affected Crazy Horse. A disastrous 1854 conference at Fort Laramie between Indians and U.S. Army representatives resulted in several deaths, mostly of soldiers. In the aftermath, Crazy Horse, now 13 years old, sought a vision.

For three days he neither ate nor slept. Having become faint, he had a vision in which he saw a warrior on a horse with hail spots on his flesh and

© Wikimedia Commons

a streak of lightning running from forehead to chin. Later, beginning when he was 16 and preparing for battle, Crazy Horse would paint his own skin with white hail spots and draw a red lightning bolt down one of his cheeks.

Details of his early military exploits against the United States are sketchy. In December 1866, he was possibly part of the Sioux force that crushed U.S. Army Captain William Fetterman and his troops in the Wyoming Territory in the so-called 'Fetterman Fight.' He may also have been involved in the Wagon Box fight in August of the next year.

CRAZY HORSE AND BLACK BUFFALO WOMAN

Crazy Horse is said to have loved Black Buffalo Woman, a niece of the mighty Sioux chief Red Cloud. The problem was that she was already married to No Water, a man with a violent temper.

Crazy Horse was not deterred by the threat of No Water's rage. He tried to run away with Black Buffalo Woman, but No Water overtook the pair and he and Crazy Horse fought. Their wrestling was ended by the intervention of another man, Touch the Clouds, a warrior said to be seven feet tall. After the two men were disengaged, Crazy Horse had to reluctantly concede defeat and let Black Buffalo Woman return home with her husband.

The story of the two did not end there. Later, when Black Buffalo Woman had by then became the mother of three children, Crazy Horse held a feast for her. Leaving her children with kinfolk, she took up with Crazy Horse. A Sioux woman had a great deal of freedom when it came to staying with or leaving a husband, and Black Buffalo Woman was exercising that right.

Unfortunately, No Water did not accept her choice. Bursting in on them while they were celebrating their new marriage, No Water shot Crazy Horse in the jaw. Touch the Clouds again intervened, and No Water was condemned for not abiding by Sioux custom. He made an apology to Crazy Horse in the form of gifted ponies. Having accepted the animals, the dispute ought to have been over. Crazy Horse, however, subsequently assaulted No Water, meaning he was now the one in disrepute for his transgressive conduct.

Under construction since 1948, the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota is slated to be 195m long and 172m high

Crazy Horse and Black Buffalo Woman may have had a daughter together. Afterward, the couple separated, and Crazy Horse, now around 26, took Black Shawl as his wife. Tragedy soon followed when their daughter died of cholera. Distraught, Crazy Horse seems to have become uncaring about his own safety and grew very solitary. While still married to Black Shawl, he next married Nellie Laravie, a woman of mixed French and Cheyenne heritage.

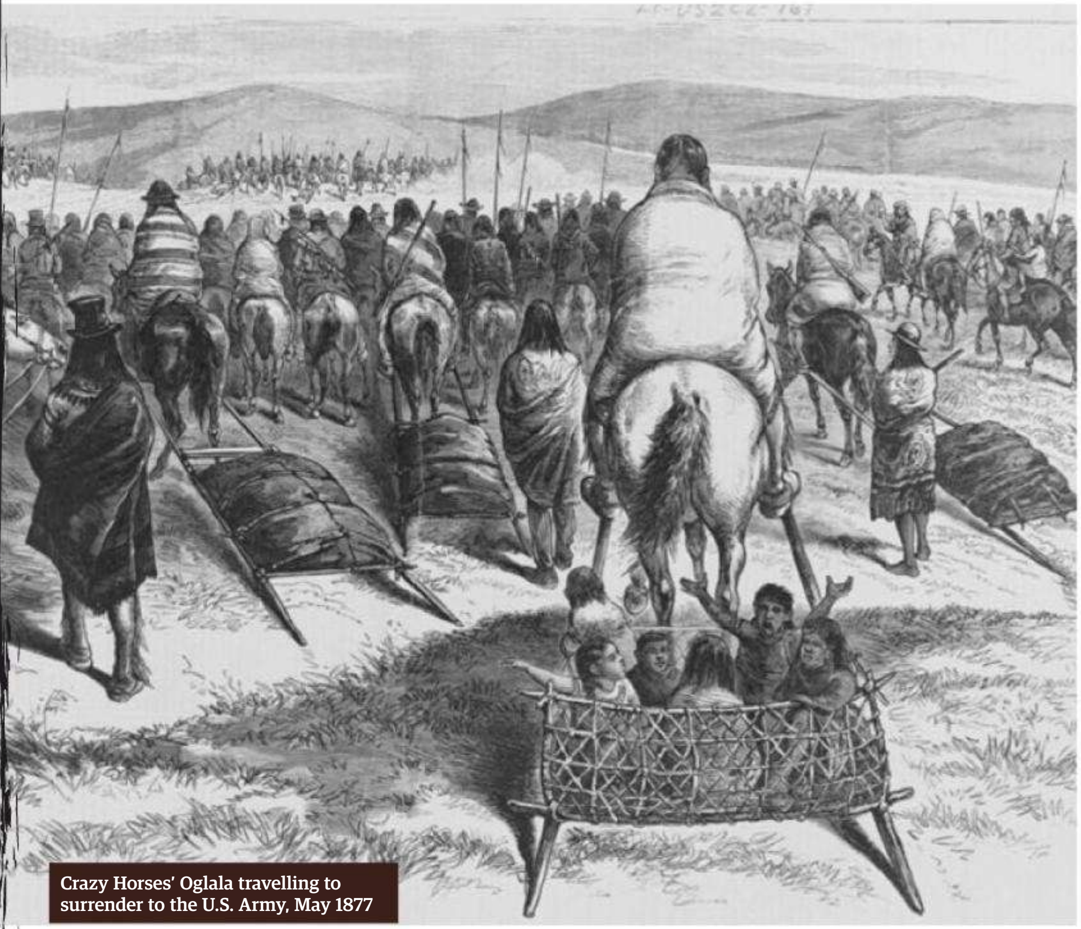
THE GREAT SIOUX WAR ON THE GREAT PLAINS

Under the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, the United States recognised Sioux control of the bulk of what is today the state of South Dakota. It also gave the Sioux the important right to hunt buffalo in a huge territory embracing the modern states of North Dakota and Montana.

Sitting Bull, of the Hunkpapa Sioux, came to the fore of Lakota/Sioux leadership around this time, being recognised as the paramount leader of Sioux with regard to matters of war. Crazy Horse was himself recognised as the war chief of the Oglala, Cheyenne and Arapaho. He pledged his allegiance to Sitting Bull and vowed that he would make war if Sitting Bull commanded it.

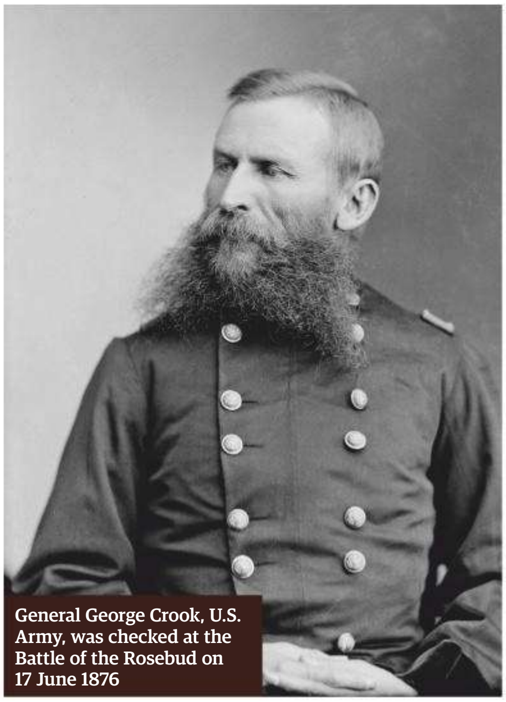
The Sioux were forced to take a stand against the Americans when the latter encroached on the Black Hills in the Dakota Territory. The Sioux rebuffed American attempts to buy the Black Hills, in which gold had been discovered, and the U.S. Army moved to crush them. On 17 March 1876, soldiers destroyed a Sioux village on the Powder River. Its inhabitants had not been at war with the Americans and were thoroughly surprised by the attack. To many Indians it appeared that peace and accommodation was not possible with the United States.

Both the Sioux chiefs, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, sent a warning to U.S. Army General George Crook

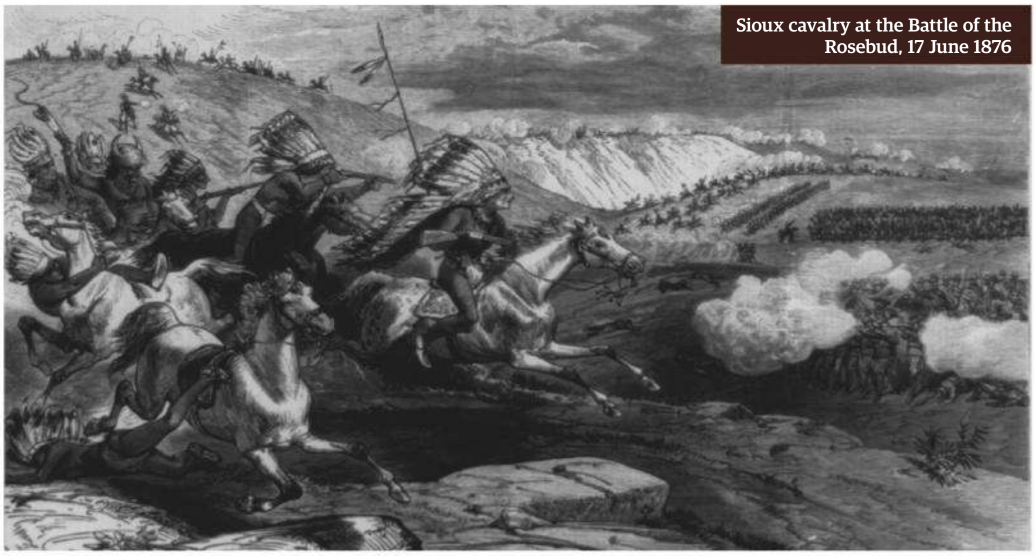


Crazy Horses' Oglala travelling to surrender to the U.S. Army, May 1877

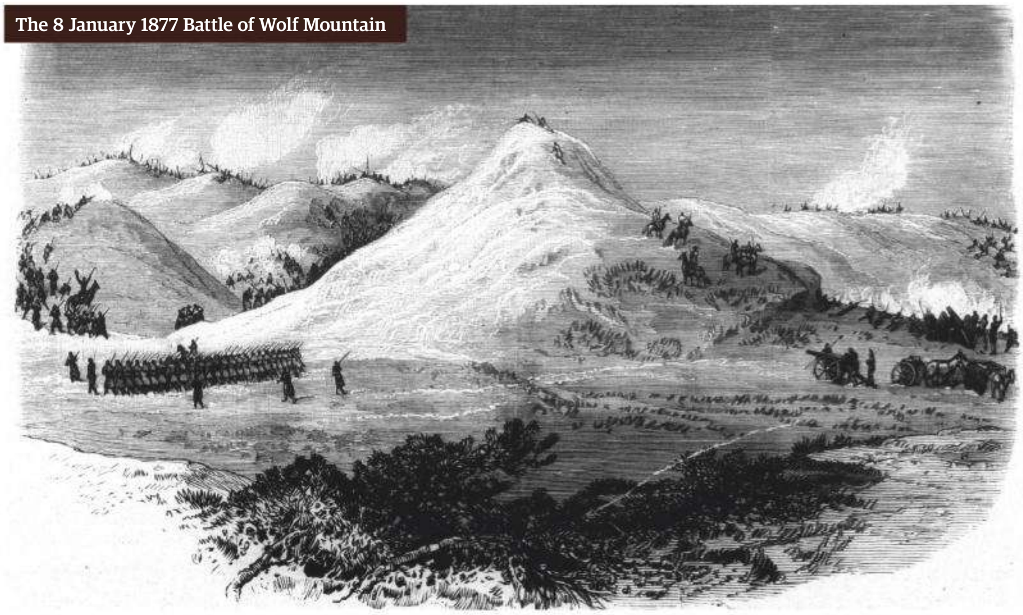
The doomed Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, commander of the U.S. 7th Cavalry at Little Bighorn



General George Crook, U.S. Army, was checked at the Battle of the Rosebud on 17 June 1876



Sioux cavalry at the Battle of the Rosebud, 17 June 1876



The 8 January 1877 Battle of Wolf Mountain

as he encamped his troops along the backs of the Rosebud River: 'Come so far, but no farther; cross the river at your peril.'

Crook, with about 1,300 men behind him, disregarded the warning and pressed on. The next day, 17 June 1876, Crook came upon Crazy Horse's Sioux and Cheyenne. Crazy Horse stoked his warriors' ardour for the coming fight, crying "Come on Dakotas [Sioux], it's a good day to die!"

Crook was not expecting to meet Indians in such numbers (they outnumbered his own force) or standing in battle formation on higher ground. Mounted Sioux and Cheyenne warriors launched a brave cavalry charge. The ensuing fighting was confused and the U.S. Army force was divided, with the cavalry losing contact with the infantry. The fighting continued from ridge to ridge. Though the Indians eventually left the field to the U.S. soldiers, they saw the Battle of the Rosebud as a victory.

Crazy Horse and his jubilant warriors went to the massive Indian camp at Little Bighorn. The tale of their success at Rosebud raised Indian spirits. Crazy Horse is probably best remembered for his participation in the subsequent Battle of Little Bighorn on 25 June 1876, in which a tremendous Indian force shattered the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, a battle in which Custer himself was slain.

"CROOK DISREGARDED THE WARNING… HE WAS NOT EXPECTING TO MEET INDIANS IN SUCH NUMBERS OR STANDING IN BATTLE FORMATION ON HIGHER GROUND"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE LAST DAYS OF CRAZY HORSE

Though the Sioux had won two great victories against the U.S. Army, these successes spurred the U.S. to exert more effort to defeat them once and for all. Crazy Horse was on the defensive that winter. On 8 January 1877, U.S. Army troops under Colonel Nelson A. Miles fought Crazy Horse and his army of around 400 warriors at the Battle of Wolf Mountain. Though the losses to either side in the snowy engagement were very light, the Sioux were defeated, and their military power was seriously damaged.

Crazy Horse's own aura of greatness dimmed. His hold on the Sioux, especially the non-Oglala, such as the Miniconjous and the Sans Arcs, slipped. Many Sioux, such as Sitting Bull, wanted to find refuge in Canada. With his authority evaporating, Crazy Horse left the Sioux camp in search of a vision to guide him. None was forthcoming.

Returning to camp, he learned that the chiefs were planning to surrender to the U.S. Army at Fort Robinson in Nebraska. His morale shattered, he promised that would not stand in their way. In fact, he would join them in accepting the inevitable. Crazy Horse surrendered at Fort Robinson, along with around 900 of his own followers and almost 2,000 horses in May 1877. What happened to him afterwards is not known for certain.

The facts of Crazy Horse's death are unclear. On 5 September 1877, while at Fort Robinson, he was arrested and subjected to a body search for weapons. His arms were held, and an alarmed Crazy Horse reacted by producing a knife. The great warrior was either bayoneted by a soldier or used the knife on himself. He succumbed to his injury during the night. Touch the Clouds was there at his passing. "It is good," he said of Crazy Horse's end. "He has looked for death and it is come." Today, for many Native Americans, Crazy Horse is a symbol of opposition to white expansion into their lands.

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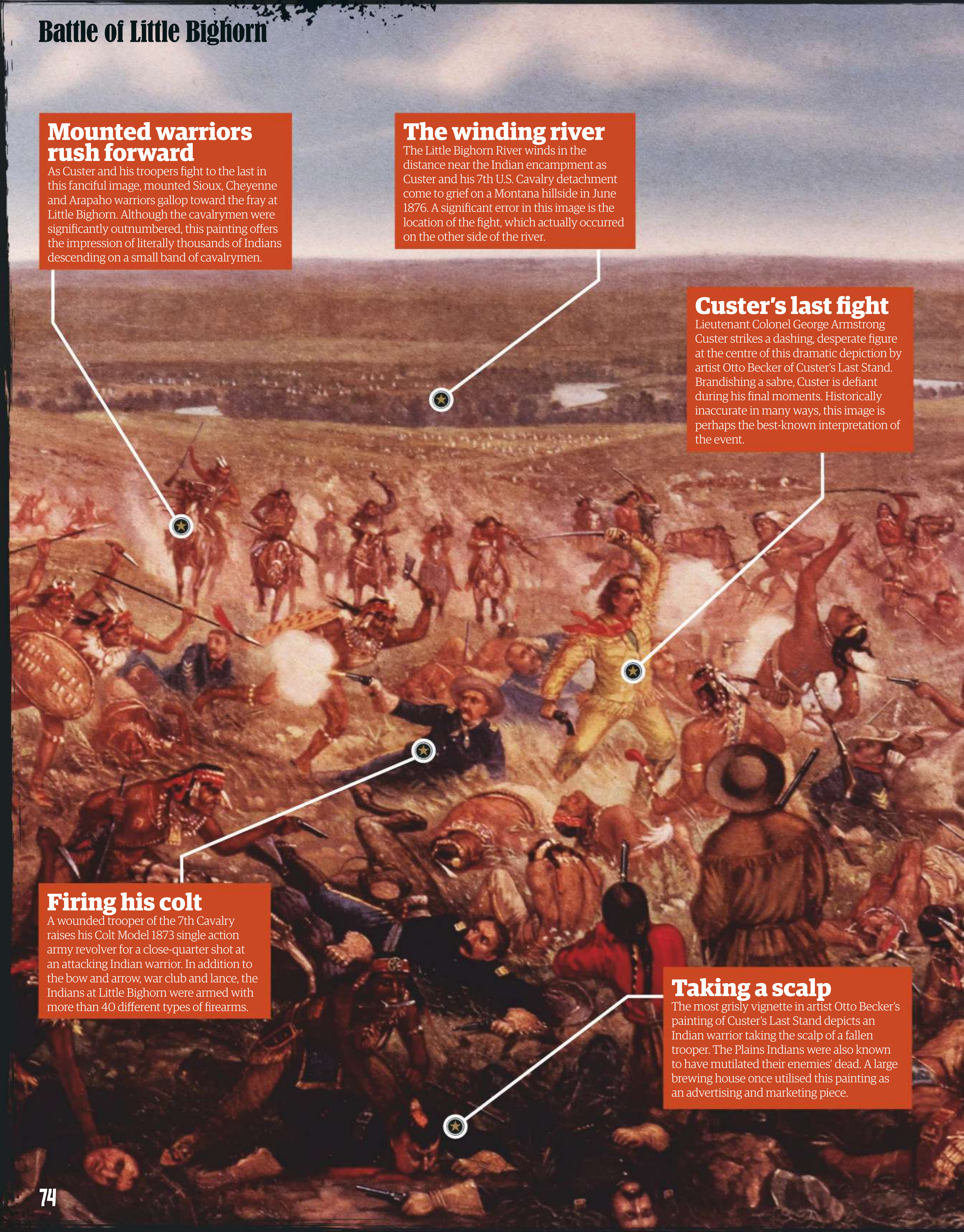


Mounted warriors rush forward

As Custer and his troopers fight to the last in this fanciful image, mounted Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors gallop toward the fray at Little Bighorn. Although the cavalrymen were significantly outnumbered, this painting offers the impression of literally thousands of Indians descending on a small band of cavalrymen.

The winding river

The Little Bighorn River winds in the distance near the Indian encampment as Custer and his 7th U.S. Cavalry detachment come to grief on a Montana hillside in June 1876. A significant error in this image is the location of the fight, which actually occurred on the other side of the river.

Custer's last fight

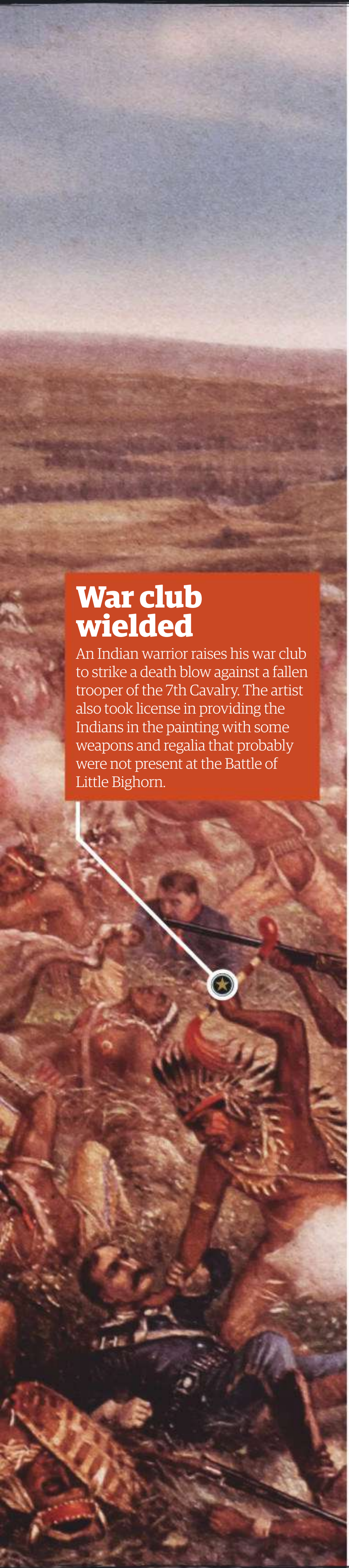
Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer strikes a dashing, desperate figure at the centre of this dramatic depiction by artist Otto Becker of Custer's Last Stand. Brandishing a sabre, Custer is defiant during his final moments. Historically inaccurate in many ways, this image is perhaps the best-known interpretation of the event.

Firing his colt

A wounded trooper of the 7th Cavalry raises his Colt Model 1873 single action army revolver for a close-quarter shot at an attacking Indian warrior. In addition to the bow and arrow, war club and lance, the Indians at Little Bighorn were armed with more than 40 different types of firearms.

Taking a scalp

The most grisly vignette in artist Otto Becker's painting of Custer's Last Stand depicts an Indian warrior taking the scalp of a fallen trooper. The Plains Indians were also known to have mutilated their enemies' dead. A large brewing house once utilised this painting as an advertising and marketing piece.



War club wielded

An Indian warrior raises his war club to strike a death blow against a fallen trooper of the 7th Cavalry. The artist also took license in providing the Indians in the painting with some weapons and regalia that probably were not present at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

BATTLE OF LITTLE BIGHORN

Montana Territory 25–26 June 1876

In November 1868, the great Sioux chief Red Cloud agreed to a treaty with the United States. Red Cloud consented to relocate the Sioux to a vast reservation in the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory, land sacred to the tribe. However, some Sioux factions refused to relocate, particularly since white settlers regularly encroached on lands already promised to the Sioux and other Native tribes. Among these were the Cheyenne and Arapaho, who joined Sioux led by Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and other leaders in a strong defiance of the treaty. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874 only quickened the pace of white settlement in Dakota.

By the summer of 1876, the U.S. Army was charged with bringing the renegade Natives to heel, eliminating the threat to the growing tide of settlement. A contingent of cavalry and infantry was dispatched to the Montana Territory under the command of generals George Crook and Alfred Terry and Colonel John Gibbon. Their plan was to trap the Natives and either annihilate or compel them to retire to the reservation.

By mid-June, Crook had been fought to a standstill. He halted to regroup while Terry and Gibbon, still hoping to trap their adversaries, headed for the valley of the Bighorn and Little Bighorn rivers. The 7th Cavalry Regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer, was detached and ordered to proceed along the Rosebud River.

Prior to departing Terry's command, Custer was offered the firepower of the Gatling gun detachment of the 20th Infantry Regiment. He declined, saying the guns would slow him down. He was also offered two additional cavalry companies but rejected these as well, confidently stating that the 7th Cavalry was capable of handling whatever trouble might arise.

When a huge Native encampment was spotted along the banks of the Little Bighorn on the morning of 25 June, Custer issued questionable orders, dividing his command of fewer than 700 troopers into four groups. Fearing that the element of surprise would be lost, he further discarded plans to attack the following day and impetuously ordered an immediate assault.

With 177 men, Major Marcus Reno made first contact with the enemy at approximately 3 p.m. A strong Native force attacked in turn and pushed Reno's dismounted troopers through scrub and brambles to a hillside, where they were pinned down. Shortly after Reno engaged, Custer sent his five companies toward the other end of the Native encampment. Crazy Horse reversed direction and completed an envelopment of Custer's force, which was driven northward. Meanwhile, 115 troopers under Captain Frederick Benteen joined Reno and fought off repeated Native assaults. Their survivors retired after another day of fighting. Custer fought a running battle with his pursuers. His five companies were finally surrounded on high ground about three miles from Reno's position and annihilated.

Custer himself was among the 260 troopers and scouts killed in the battle, which has lived on in popular culture as Custer's Last Stand. 55 more soldiers were wounded. About 130 Natives were killed and 160 wounded. Yet although they had prevailed at the Little Bighorn, the Natives were overwhelmed and defeated within a year.

U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment

TROOPS 700
CAVALRY 700

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE A. CUSTER

LEADER

Shown above in 1865, George A. Custer was promoted to the temporary rank of brigadier general during the Civil War.

Strengths Custer was well known for his bravery and fighting spirit.

Weakness Custer was impetuous and prone to taking risks.

7TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

KEY UNIT

The veteran 7th Cavalry Regiment followed its commander, George Custer, to destruction at the Little Bighorn

Strengths Mobile, quick-strike force.

Weakness Too lightly armed and equipped for sustained combat.

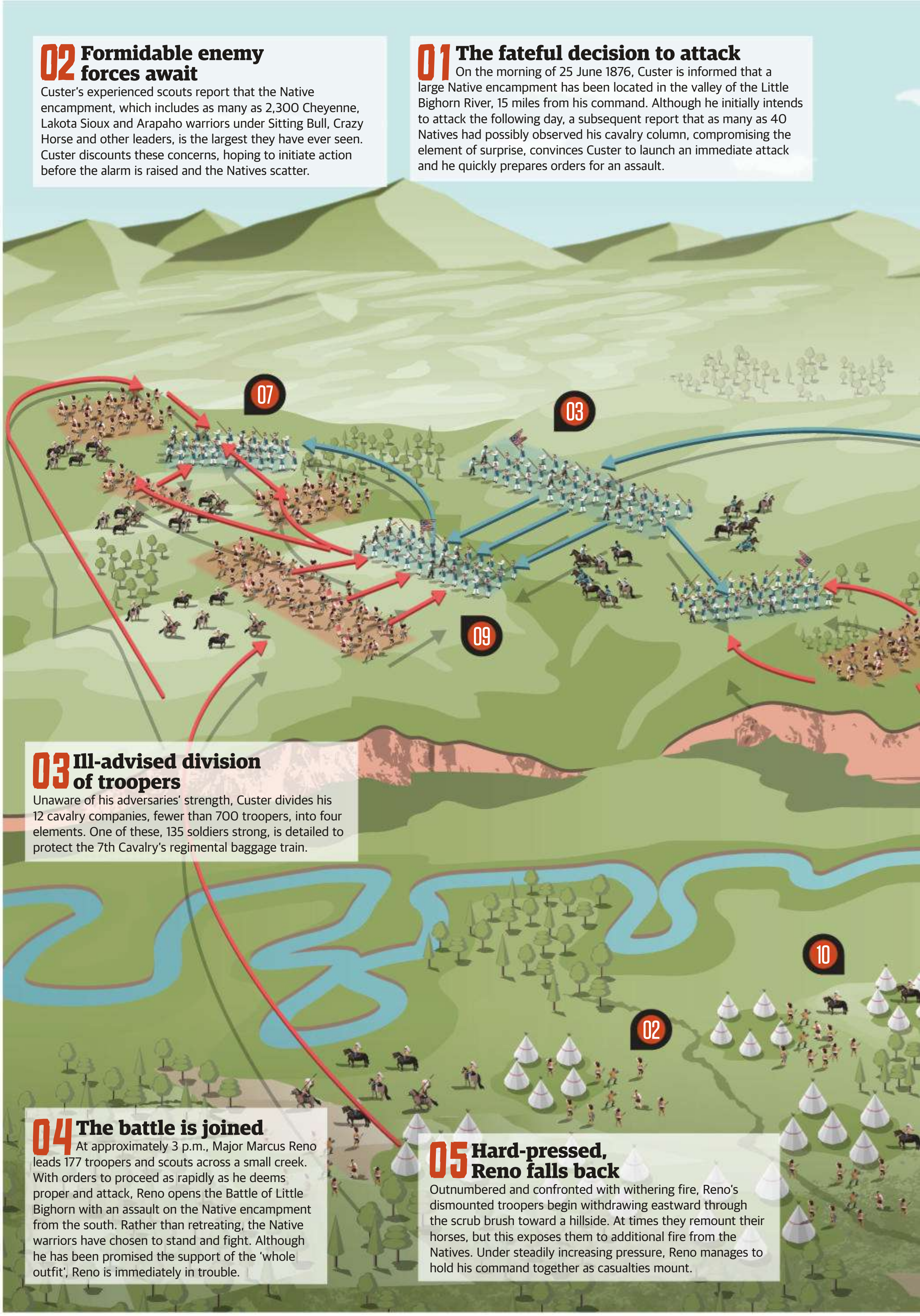
SPRINGFIELD MODEL 1873 CARBINE

KEY WEAPON

A 'trapdoor' rifle, the Model 1873 utilised a hinged breechblock.

Strengths Short carbine easier to transport than standard model (pictured); excellent range.

Weakness Low rate of fire due to single-shot chamber.



01 The fateful decision to attack

On the morning of 25 June 1876, Custer is informed that a large Native encampment has been located in the valley of the Little Bighorn River, 15 miles from his command. Although he initially intends to attack the following day, a subsequent report that as many as 40 Natives had possibly observed his cavalry column, compromising the element of surprise, convinces Custer to launch an immediate attack and he quickly prepares orders for an assault.

02 Formidable enemy forces await

Custer's experienced scouts report that the Native encampment, which includes as many as 2,300 Cheyenne, Lakota Sioux and Arapaho warriors under Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and other leaders, is the largest they have ever seen. Custer discounts these concerns, hoping to initiate action before the alarm is raised and the Natives scatter.

03 Ill-advised division of troopers

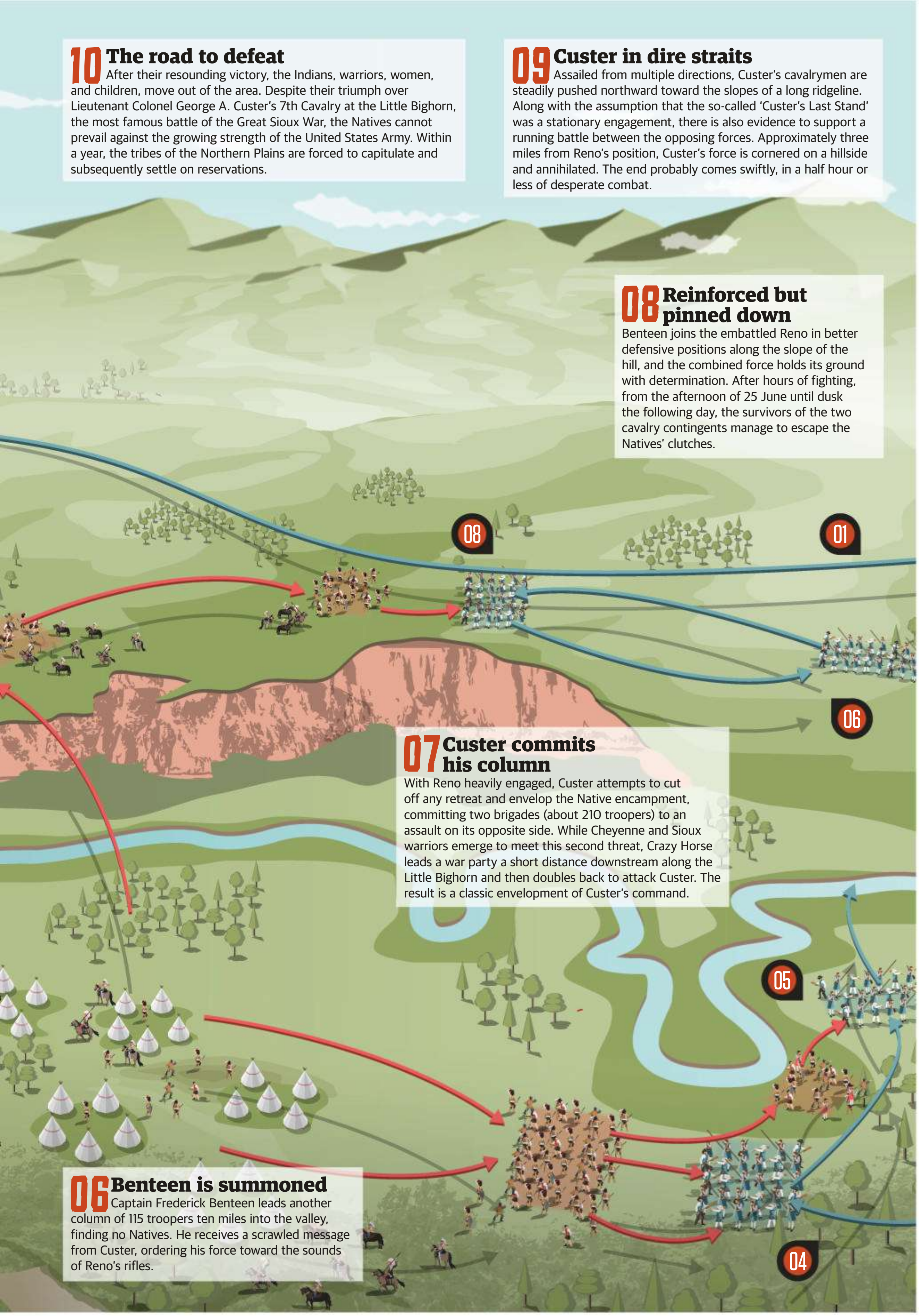
Unaware of his adversaries' strength, Custer divides his 12 cavalry companies, fewer than 700 troopers, into four elements. One of these, 135 soldiers strong, is detailed to protect the 7th Cavalry's regimental baggage train.

04 The battle is joined

At approximately 3 p.m., Major Marcus Reno leads 177 troopers and scouts across a small creek. With orders to proceed as rapidly as he deems proper and attack, Reno opens the Battle of Little Bighorn with an assault on the Native encampment from the south. Rather than retreating, the Native warriors have chosen to stand and fight. Although he has been promised the support of the 'whole outfit', Reno is immediately in trouble.

05 Hard-pressed, Reno falls back

Outnumbered and confronted with withering fire, Reno's dismounted troopers begin withdrawing eastward through the scrub brush toward a hillside. At times they remount their horses, but this exposes them to additional fire from the Natives. Under steadily increasing pressure, Reno manages to hold his command together as casualties mount.



10 The road to defeat

After their resounding victory, the Indians, warriors, women, and children, move out of the area. Despite their triumph over Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer's 7th Cavalry at the Little Bighorn, the most famous battle of the Great Sioux War, the Natives cannot prevail against the growing strength of the United States Army. Within a year, the tribes of the Northern Plains are forced to capitulate and subsequently settle on reservations.

09 Custer in dire straits

Assailed from multiple directions, Custer's cavalrymen are steadily pushed northward toward the slopes of a long ridgeline. Along with the assumption that the so-called 'Custer's Last Stand' was a stationary engagement, there is also evidence to support a running battle between the opposing forces. Approximately three miles from Reno's position, Custer's force is cornered on a hillside and annihilated. The end probably comes swiftly, in a half hour or less of desperate combat.

08 Reinforced but pinned down

Benteen joins the embattled Reno in better defensive positions along the slope of the hill, and the combined force holds its ground with determination. After hours of fighting, from the afternoon of 25 June until dusk the following day, the survivors of the two cavalry contingents manage to escape the Natives' clutches.

07 Custer commits his column

With Reno heavily engaged, Custer attempts to cut off any retreat and envelop the Native encampment, committing two brigades (about 210 troopers) to an assault on its opposite side. While Cheyenne and Sioux warriors emerge to meet this second threat, Crazy Horse leads a war party a short distance downstream along the Little Bighorn and then doubles back to attack Custer. The result is a classic envelopment of Custer's command.

06 Benteen is summoned

Captain Frederick Benteen leads another column of 115 troopers ten miles into the valley, finding no Natives. He receives a scrawled message from Custer, ordering his force toward the sounds of Reno's rifles.

Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne & Arapaho

WARRIORS 2,300
WOMEN & CHILDREN 7,000

CRAZY HORSE

LEADER

Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and others led the Natives at Little Bighorn.

Strengths Crazy Horse was visionary, spiritual, courageous, and inspirational.

Weakness Willing to engage in a war against overwhelming odds.

INDIAN WARRIORS

KEY UNIT

Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors pursued the 7th Cavalry on horseback.

Strengths Strong-willed, courageous, with great endurance.

Weakness They were often outgunned and outmanned, though not at Little Bighorn.

RIFLES

KEY WEAPON

Winchester and Henry repeating rifles provided great firepower.

Strengths Rapid rates of fire for repeating rifles.

Weakness Shorter range compared to single-shot 7th Cavalry rifles.

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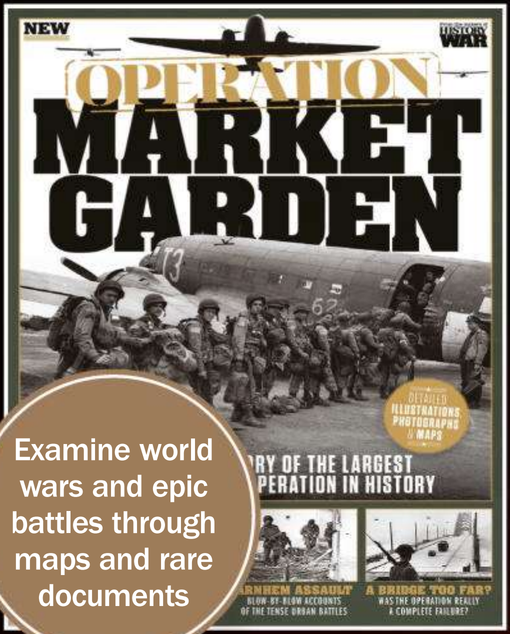

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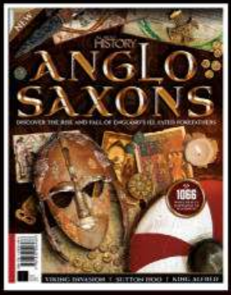

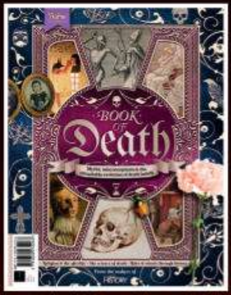

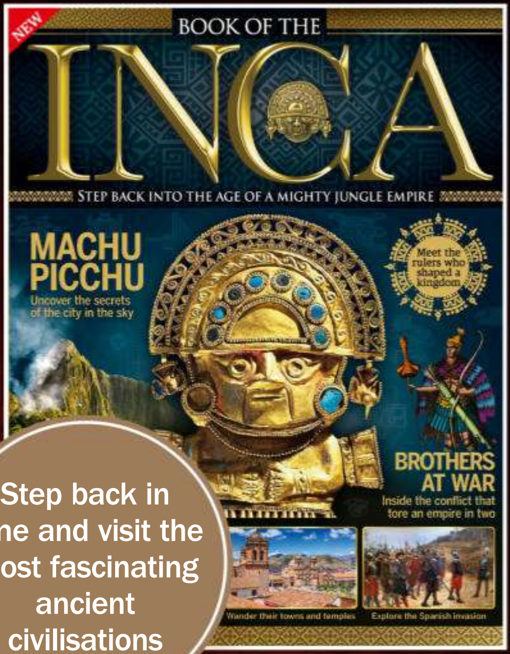

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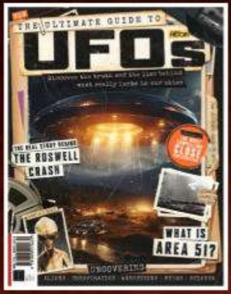

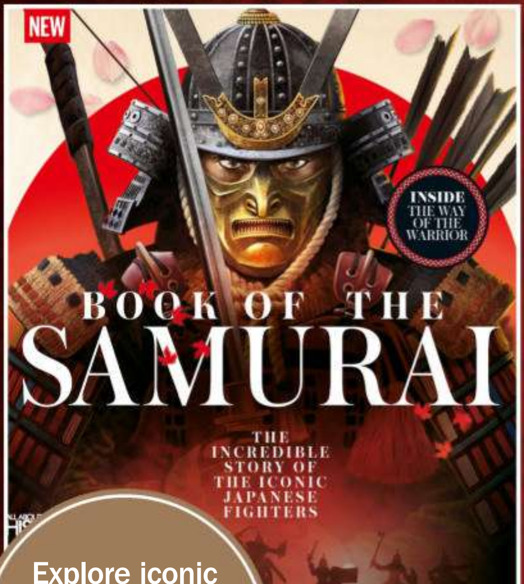

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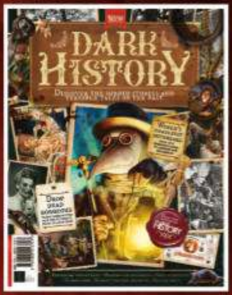

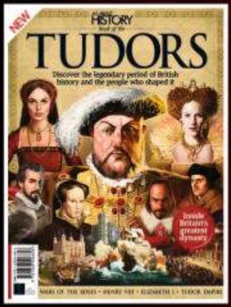

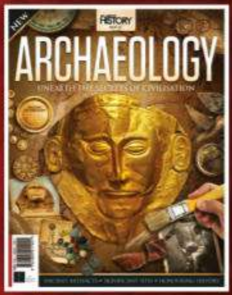

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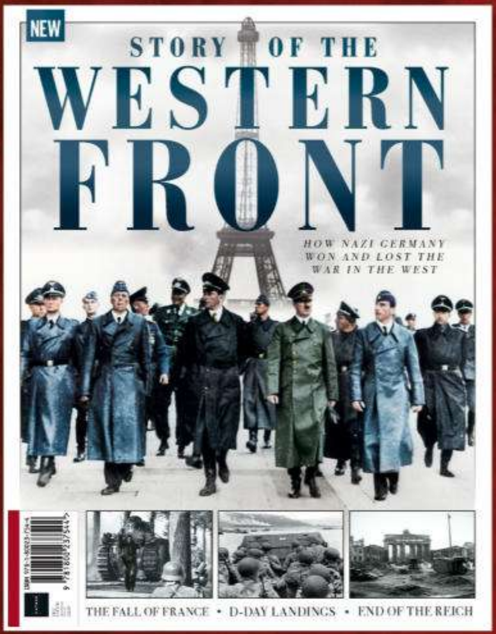
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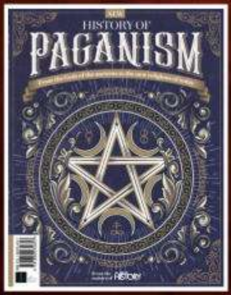
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BUFFALO BILL CODY

Buffalo Bill was America's first great showman. He didn't just come from the Wild West – he invented it

In the mid-to-late 1800s, the United States of America was a young country. Obviously its indigenous population had been there for millennia, but when the settlers moved west in search of land, gold and freedom, a whole new nation was born. It had no history to call its own and so immediately set about creating a new mythological heritage. The first 'Western' movie was one of the first films ever made: generally acknowledged to be 1903's *The Great Train Robbery*.

A fundamental figure in the rapid transition between the historical West and the legends of the 'Wild West' was Buffalo Bill. He took his genuine experiences of life on the frontier and transformed them into show business.

William Frederick Cody was born in Iowa on 26 February 1846. His father Isaac was a farmer and his mother Mary was a schoolteacher. In 1854 the family, like many others of the time, moved west to Kansas to seek new opportunities on the frontier. Sadly, the dream was short-lived for Isaac. The American Civil War was only a few years away, and the question of slavery was a cause of great division within society. Isaac spoke out against slavery at a public meeting in 1857 and was attacked by a mob that disagreed with him. He never fully recovered from his injuries and died not long afterwards.

Times were hard following Isaac's death, and young Bill, aged just 11, was forced to find work to support his family. His first job was with a freight-carrying company, riding on horseback carrying messages up and down the wagon trains between the workmen and the drivers. He also spent time as an army scout in Utah, a period during which he claimed to have killed his first 'Indian'. But his real adventures - and the beginnings of his own legend - started when, at the age of 14, he signed on as a rider for the Pony Express.

The Pony Express was, for a short time before the invention of the telegraph, America's quickest and most direct means of communication: it could get a message via horse and rider, between the East and West coasts in about ten days. It was not, however, a job for the faint-hearted. "Wanted," ran one of its recruitment posters, "Young, skinny, wiry fellows, not over 18, must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred." The pay was $25 a week.

Bill seized the opportunity, and for the next couple of years he undertook dangerous journeys on many occasions, all in the service of getting the mail delivered. One such quest saw him make a record-setting ride covering 322 miles with 21 horses. At least, that was Bill's story later in life. Others claimed that he never really rode further than three miles.

A stint in the Kansas Cavalry followed, although he was too young to fight in the Civil War. He was discharged in 1865 and married in 1866, for a while running an inn in Kansas with his new wife, Louisa.

DEFINING MOMENT

THE UTAH WAR

The Utah War pitted the U.S. Government against Mormon settlers taking a stand against persecution. Bill claimed his lifelong career as an 'Indian Fighter' began here when, as an army scout aged 11, he killed a Sioux who was shooting at his compatriots. "From that time forward I became a hero," he boasted in his autobiography.

May 1857-Jul 1858

Bill with paraphernalia, circa 1892

Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull, photographed in 1885
Inset: Bill in 1911

Sedentary domestic life wasn't for him, however, and he rode out west again, hiring himself out for a couple of years as a scout, guide and frontiersman. It was during this time that he earned his famous nickname by shooting thousands of buffalo to supply meat for the workers building the Kansas Pacific Railroad. He's reputed to have killed well over 4,000 buffalo in just 18 months with his Springfield Model 1866 service rifle (which he called 'Lucretia Borgia').

By 1868 he was back in the army, serving as chief of scouts in the Third Cavalry and taking part in several violent campaigns against the Native Americans over the next four years. Again there are tall tales of superhuman rides over incredible distances to deliver dispatches, but it's certainly true that Bill was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in 1872. He claimed to have killed a Sioux chief called Tall Bull and scalped a Cheyenne chief called Yellow Hand. He would embellish and dramatise the latter encounter in particular for decades to come.

The man that helped him with those embellishments was Ned Buntline, perhaps the most important person in the establishment of the Buffalo Bill legend - apart from Bill himself. Buntline was a prolific author of 'dime' novels: cheap pulp magazines of lurid tall stories, very popular in the eastern United States, for whom the West was exotically distant.

Buntline met Bill in 1869, and while Bill's name was already somewhat known, Buntline made him nationally famous with his first book about him; *Buffalo Bill, the King of the Border Men*. Buntline wrote a further three Buffalo Bill novels and a play, but others took up the baton too. Another dime novel author, Prentiss Ingraham, wrote 121 Buffalo Bill novels: 23 in 1896 alone. In total, Bill was the protagonist of 557 separate dime novels during his lifetime, detailing far more exploits than he could possibly have lived.

Bill saw Buntline's play (based on the first book) in New York in 1872 during his first trip east. Buntline subsequently persuaded him to take to the stage himself, and Bill made his debut as an actor in Buntline's *Scouts of the Prairie* in December of the same year. For the next decade he divided his time between appearing on stage and scouting on the plains and prairies. In 1876 he was even part of the campaign that saw General Custer's last stand. And while Bill wasn't personally at the Battle of Little Bighorn, his fans could still have read about his heroism there nevertheless. In an effort to draw a distinction between the more-or-less fictional Buffalo Bill and the real William Cody, Bill actually wrote his own autobiography in 1879, but his love of mythmaking and self-aggrandisement meant that it was hardly more reliable than the dime books already published.

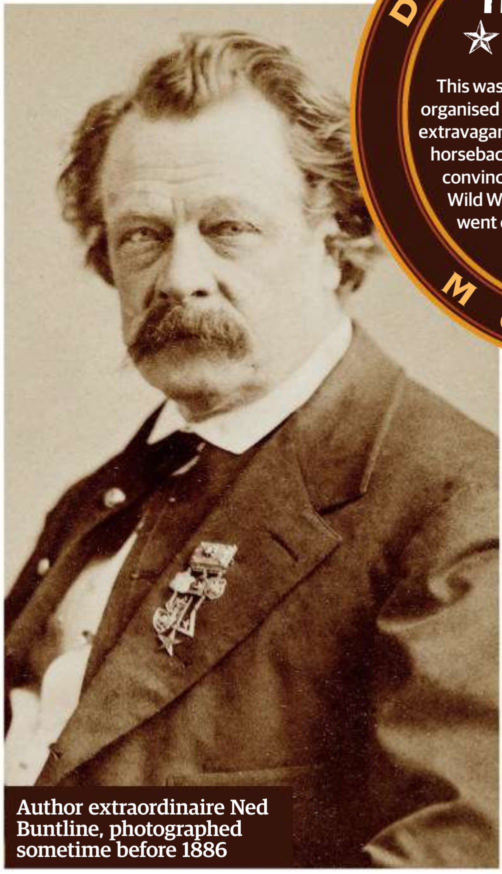
His flair for drama saw him perform in any number of plays depicting action-packed life and death on the frontier, and in 1882 he organised an extravaganza for the 4 July Independence Day celebrations, including rodeo riding, horseback and sharp-shooting exhibitions. This provided the

DEFINING MOMENT

THE MAN, THE MYTH

Bill met writer Ned Buntline in 1869, and Buntline wasted no time in turning Bill into a pulp hero. He wrote four novels featuring Bill: *The King of the Border Men*, *Buffalo Bill's Best Shot*, *Buffalo Bill's Last Victory*, and *Hazel Eye the Girl Trapper*. He also wrote the play *Scouts of the Prairie*, with Bill playing himself. The first Western star was born.

1869-1872



Author extraordinaire Ned Buntline, photographed sometime before 1886

DEFINING MOMENT

THE OLD GLORY BLOWOUT

This was an Independence Day celebration organised by Bill in North Platte, Nebraska. The extravaganza included rodeo competitions and horseback-riding exhibitions, and its success convinced him of the viability of a touring Wild West show. The lavish spectacle he went on to organise used 300 head of livestock and 200 actors.

4 July 1882

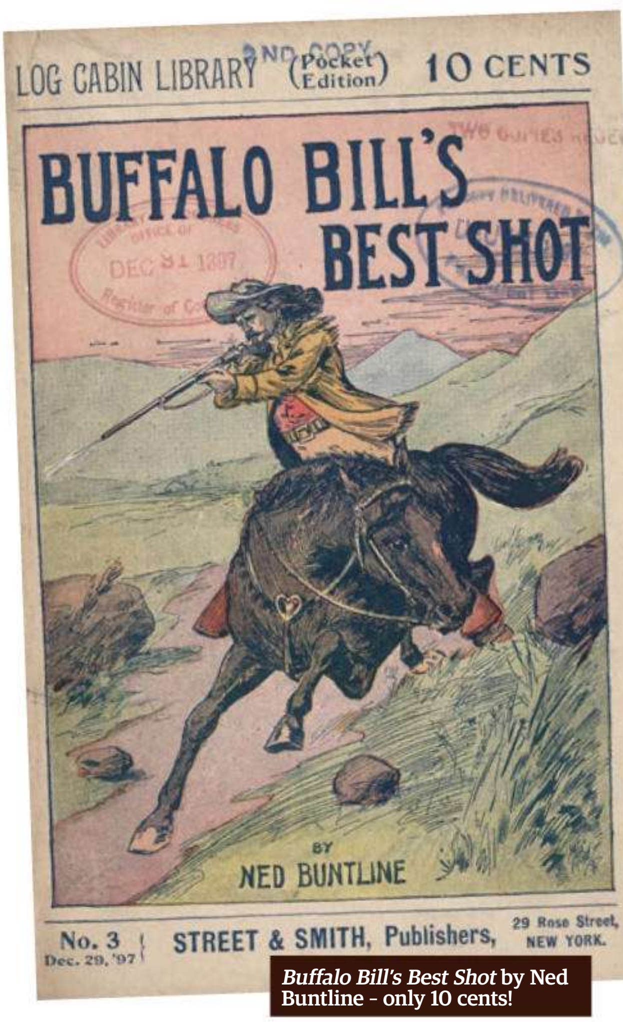
template for the show that made him world famous – Buffalo Bill's Wild West – which included dramatised stagecoach robberies, buffalo hunts, cattle roundups and battles with Indians. Characters like 'Little Sure Shot' Annie Oakley and 'King of the Cowboys' Buck Taylor demonstrated incredible skill in areas like gunplay and lassoing. Insisting the show was educational, Bill gradually internationalised its cast, adding Mexican vaqueros, Argentine gauchos and Russian Cossacks. Genuine American Indians weren't averse to appearing for Bill either: even the famous Lakota chief Sitting Bull joined the company for a season.

Bill promoted the show in his typical style, describing it as "the grandest, most realistic and overwhelmingly thrilling spectacle ever seen", and the millions of people who bought tickets clearly didn't feel short-changed. In 1887 Bill took the show further afield, travelling with it internationally and performing in England for Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. She was so impressed she requested an encore performance. Six months in Britain followed, during which Bill and his company performed to as many as 30,000 people a day. They then travelled to mainland Europe for more of the same in 1889.

Bill also began appearing in silent movies as soon as the technology arrived. Many were simply documents of the show, but 1914's *The Indian Wars* saw him playing himself in a big production about the 1890 Massacre at Wounded Knee (in which the 7th Cavalry slaughtered the Sioux). He managed to crowbar his fight with Yellow Hand into the narrative. The film is one of many from the silent era thought to be lost, but footage of Bill from other early productions does still exist. Other actors to have played him in more recent years include Charlton Heston and Paul Newman.

As great a showman as he was, however, Bill was less effective as a businessman. He certainly made a lot of money, but he also found it difficult to keep hold of it. A series of poor investment decisions saw him bankrupted and compelled to join forces with rival shows like 'Pawnee Bill' Lillie's. His health, like his finances, also deteriorated, and he died in January 1917 surrounded by his family while visiting his sister in Denver.

Tributes poured in from across the world, including from President Woodrow Wilson and Kaiser Wilhelm II. His grave is on Lookout Mountain in Golden, Colorado, and the town of Cody, Wyoming is named in his honour. It's far from his only lasting contribution to the way we still perceive the American West.



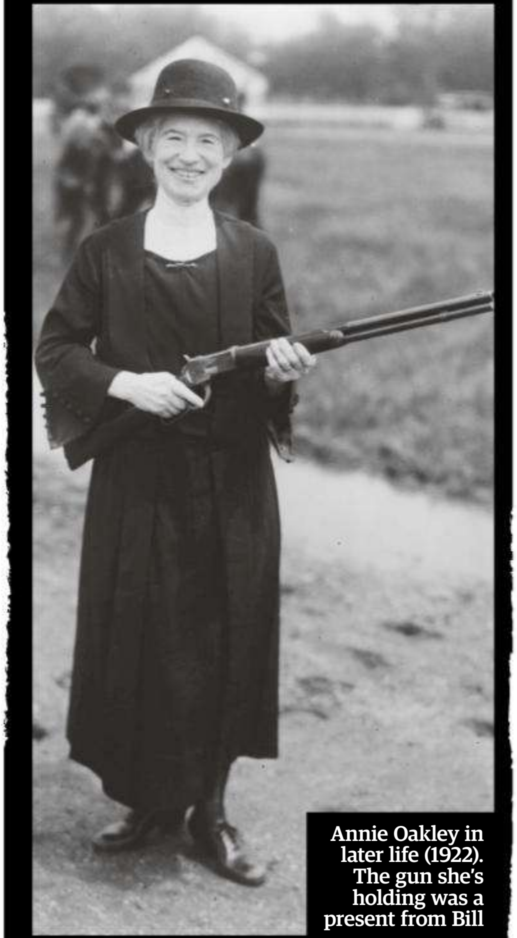
Buffalo Bill's Best Shot **by Ned Buntline – only 10 cents!**

Annie Oakley

Annie Oakley was the stage name of Phoebe Ann Moses. She was born in Ohio in 1860, and the only time she was ever in the 'Wild West' was when she toured through it with Buffalo Bill's show. Thanks to Bill's mythmaking, however, she came to represent the embodiment of the gutsy Western heroine.

While her history was made up, there was no arguing over her skill with a firearm. She could shoot a cigarette out of a man's mouth and blow multiple targets out of the air from on foot, horseback, or even a bicycle. She could shoot backwards over both shoulders using mirrors, and even being in a train wreck in 1901 didn't stop her: she somehow carried on her energetic act wearing a leg brace and using a cane. The Lakota chief Sitting Bull – also a part of Buffalo Bill's touring show for a few months – gave her the nickname 'Watanya Cicilla', meaning 'Little Sure Shot'.

She outlived Bill and continued performing until the 1920s, cutting the peculiar figure of a gun-toting, crack-shot little old lady. She accrued a fortune during her life and spent it all on her family and on philanthropic causes, including women's rights charities. She died from anaemia in 1926. Her heartbroken husband of 50 years (and partner in performances), Frank Butler, died just 18 days later.



Annie Oakley in later life (1922). The gun she's holding was a present from Bill

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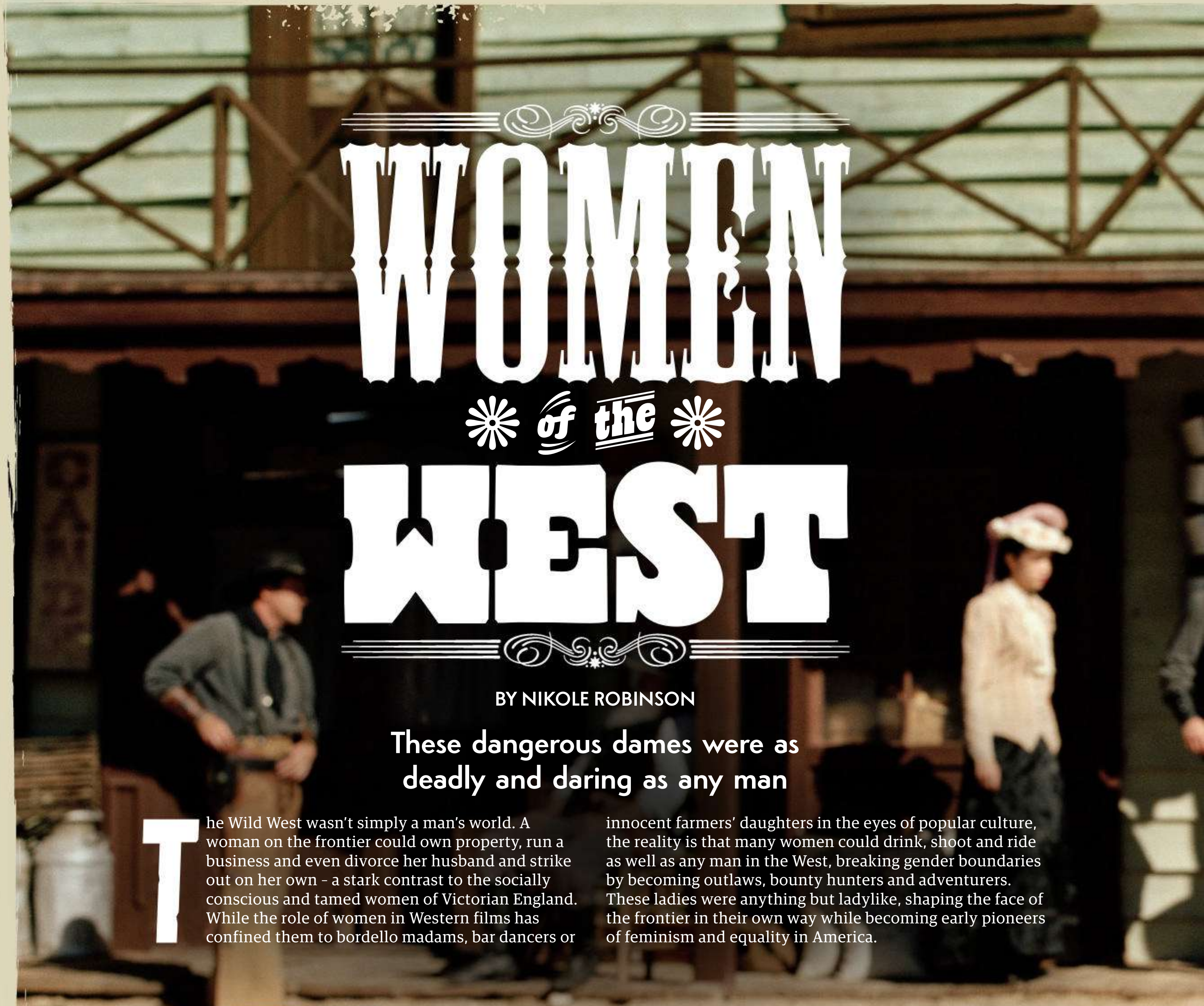
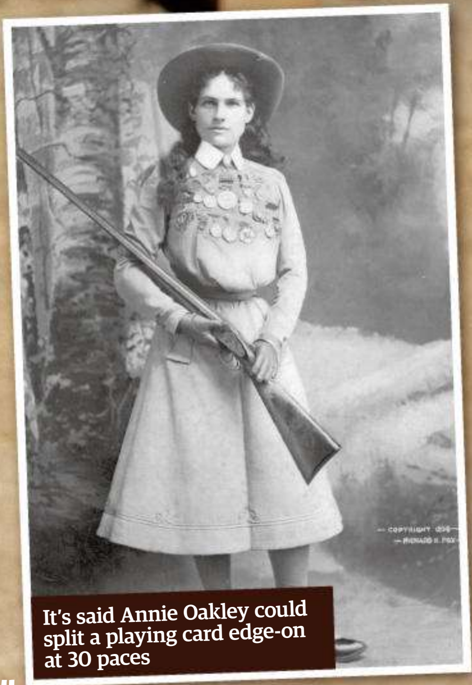


WOMEN of the WEST

BY NIKOLE ROBINSON

These dangerous dames were as deadly and daring as any man

The Wild West wasn't simply a man's world. A woman on the frontier could own property, run a business and even divorce her husband and strike out on her own – a stark contrast to the socially conscious and tamed women of Victorian England. While the role of women in Western films has confined them to bordello madams, bar dancers or innocent farmers' daughters in the eyes of popular culture, the reality is that many women could drink, shoot and ride as well as any man in the West, breaking gender boundaries by becoming outlaws, bounty hunters and adventurers. These ladies were anything but ladylike, shaping the face of the frontier in their own way while becoming early pioneers of feminism and equality in America.



It's said Annie Oakley could split a playing card edge-on at 30 paces

© Getty Images, Wikimedia Commons

ANNIE OAKLEY

BIRTH-DEATH 1860–1926
STATE OHIO

Born Phoebe Ann Moses, Annie Oakley was adept with a rifle from the age of eight, hunting to provide for her widowed mother and several siblings. After a troubled childhood moving around homes, she moved back in with her mother and started selling game to the local grocery store. This was so profitable that Oakley was able to pay off her mother's $200 mortgage at the age of just 15.

One of her customers, a Cincinnati hotel owner, heard about her shooting skills and arranged a contest against marksman Frank Butler, who was surprised when his opponent turned out to be a teenage girl. Annie didn't just win the competition – hitting all 25 targets to his 24 – she also won Butler's heart. The couple then toured the country performing sharpshooting spectacles, where she took on the stage name of Oakley.

After travelling with the Sells Brothers Circus for a season, Oakley and her husband were recruited into Buffalo Bill's Wild West travelling company as marksmen in 1885. This was Oakley's first time in the spotlight, being given top billing while Butler took on a more managerial role. However, she was forced into going on a two-year hiatus after a fierce rivalry with fellow performer Lillian Smith – who was 11 years her junior and quite standoffish – boiled over. She returned in time to tour Europe with the troupe, performing for Queen Victoria.

Oakley shot to stardom during a six-month stay in Paris; she was particularly admired by women and children, showing that anyone was capable of shooting a gun. Oakley was of the belief that every woman should be able to fire a gun, reportedly teaching 15,000 women how to handle a firearm during her career. In 1901, after sustaining injuries in a train crash, Oakley left Buffalo Bill's show, though she continued performing in smaller capacities until her health began to decline in 1925.

A woman in period dress in an Old West town; reenactments are popular across the US

Starr's story was popularised in a 1889 novel by Richard K. Fox, released in the year of her death

BELLE STARR

BIRTH-DEATH 1848–1889
STATE MISSOURI

Myra Maybelle Shirley grew up a privileged pianist, but she loved the outdoors. Her older brother, Bud, taught her how to shoot and ride a horse. After the Bleeding Canvas border war claimed his life, her family packed up and moved to Texas. It was here the family became associated with Missourian outlaws such as Jesse James and the Younger brothers, offering them refuge after a bank robbery.

One of these outlaws was Jim Reed, who Shirley married in 1866. It wasn't long before her new family was on the run after Reed was accused of murder, turning to a life of crime to survive as they fled from state to state. When Reed was murdered by a member of his gang in 1874, Shirley left her children with her mother and became an outlaw herself.

A few years later, she formed a gang with her second husband, a Cherokee man named Sam Starr, branching into bootlegging, horse stealing and cattle rustling, with Belle the brains of the operation. After a few arrests and prison stays, Belle's criminal activities were curtailed by the death of Sam in a duel in 1886. Unfortunately, a life of making enemies soon caught up with her too; she was shot dead shortly before her 41st birthday, ending her criminal legacy. A novel released the year of her death popularised her as 'The Bandit Queen', a title that stuck.

Jane posing with a rifle

CALAMITY JANE

BIRTH-DEATH 1852–1903
STATE MISSOURI

Martha Jane Cannary had crossed several state lines and lost both parents by the age of 12, but by this time she was already adept at both riding and shooting. Having to provide for her siblings, Jane took any job she could get to make ends meet, including prostitution. Growing tall in her teens, Jane found steady work as a scout at Fort Russell. Never one for women's clothing, she donned the uniform of a soldier and rode into battle against Native Americans. It was during one of these skirmishes that she's said to have received her nickname after saving her captain, though it's widely believed she embellished tales of her life to anyone who would listen.

In 1876, she would fall in with 'Wild Bill' Hickok and head to Deadwood, South Dakota, becoming enamoured with the folk hero. Though he was shot dead from behind in a poker game just a few weeks later, Jane remained in Deadwood. She was a heavy drinker and would frequent the local saloon, but she was also a compassionate individual, helping with a stagecoach accident and a smallpox outbreak, and she was also known for her generosity. Sadly, Calamity Jane's alcoholism would lead to her death in 1903. While it's still unclear if she was romantically linked to 'Wild Bill' Hickok, as she oft claimed, she would be buried by his side in Deadwood nonetheless.

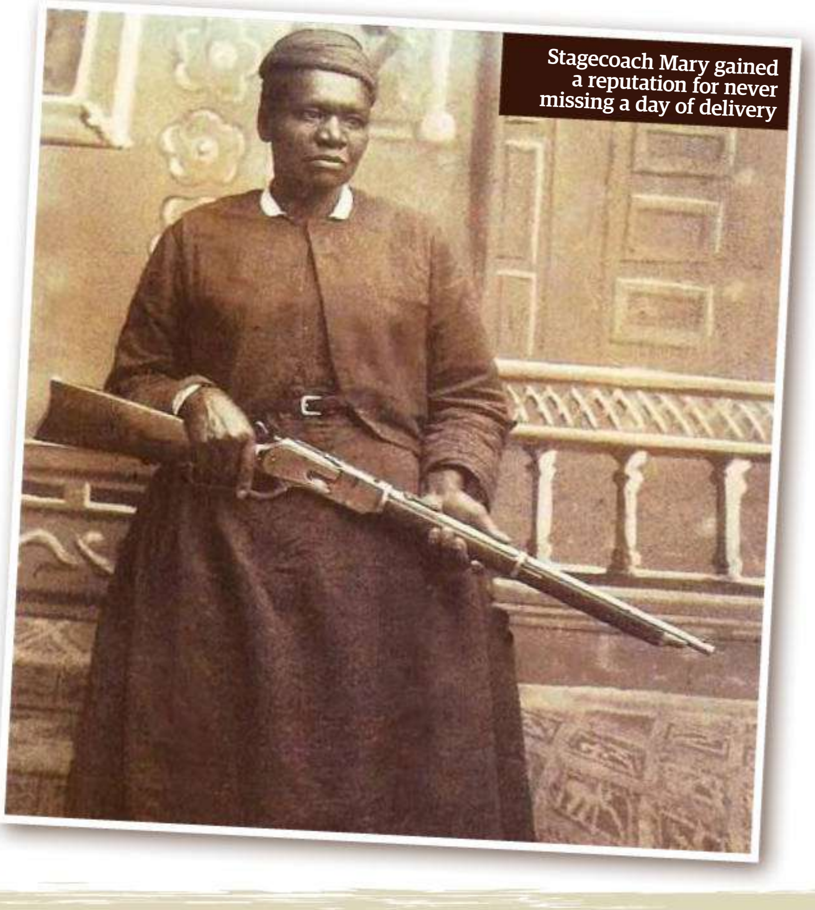
MARY FIELDS

BIRTH-DEATH 1832–1914
STATE TENNESSEE

Truly pushing the envelope for not only a woman, but a woman of colour at the time, Mary Fields became famous as a gun-toting mail carrier.

Gaining her freedom after the Civil War, she worked on a steamboat as a chambermaid. She then worked at an Ursuline convent in Ohio, becoming friends with Mary Amadeus, the Mother Superior. When Amadeus relocated to Montana and fell ill, she called for Fields to nurse her back to health; Fields stayed to work at the convent, doing 'men's work' such as maintenance and delivering supplies as well as housekeeping.

Working at a convent wasn't enough to placate Fields, however. She drank in saloons, smoked cigars and got into fistfights. She was a good shot with both a pistol and rifle, but a duel would get her kicked out of the convent by its bishop. Unable to protest, Mary Amadeus secured her friend a home in nearby Cascade and a job delivering the local mail, as well as horses and a stagecoach. Fields would run this route with great reliability for eight years, carrying a gun to defend herself on the road from bandits and wolves alike. Her resilience would earn her the nickname 'Stagecoach Mary' and make her beloved by everyone in the town of Cascade, as well as a legend.



Stagecoach Mary gained a reputation for never missing a day of delivery

Joe Boot
Pearl Hart

Hart's revolver on display in Yuma Territorial Prison Park, where she was once incarcerated

PEARL HART

BIRTH-DEATH 1871–1955
STATE ONTARIO, CANADA

Growing up in a middle-class family and receiving a good education, Pearl Taylor's life changed drastically when she fell for drunken gambler Fred Hart. Her family disapproved, so the couple eloped. But once within the confines of marriage, Fred showed his true colours; the couple would split and reconcile several times, with Pearl always returning to her abuser. Her eyes were finally opened at the Columbia Exposition of 1893, where she was inspired by feminist speakers and enthralled by Buffalo Bill's Wild West - and Annie Oakley in particular. Mesmerised by cowboy culture, Pearl Hart fled to Colorado. She travelled across America doing odd jobs, working as a cook, saloon singer and a prostitute in a mining community.

When the mine closed, she and Joe Boot, her mining beau, struggled to survive. Hart began luring men to their room so they could rob them, but she needed something more lucrative when she received news that her mother was sick. Boot formulated a plan to rob a stagecoach. While the plan went off perfectly and the pair made off with $400, they got disoriented during the getaway and were soon surrounded by the law. After a prison break and recapture - and a media circus over a female bandit - Hart went to trial, where she famously stated, "I shall not consent to be tried under a law in which my sex had no voice in making."

She was still found guilty and was sent to Yuma Territorial Prison, but her celebrity status continued. Enjoying the attention she brought, the warden gave her a luxury cell and full access to the press. Hart was pardoned after serving less than half of her five-year sentence, with rumours of a suspicious pregnancy being her get-out-of-jail card. Retiring from a life of crime and drawing on her infamy, Hart performed in a reenactment of her stagecoach robbery before achieving her dream of joining Buffalo Bill's show.

> "HART'S EYES WERE OPENED AT THE COLUMBIA EXPOSITION OF 1893, WHERE SHE WAS INSPIRED BY FEMINIST SPEAKERS AND ENTHRALLED BY BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST"

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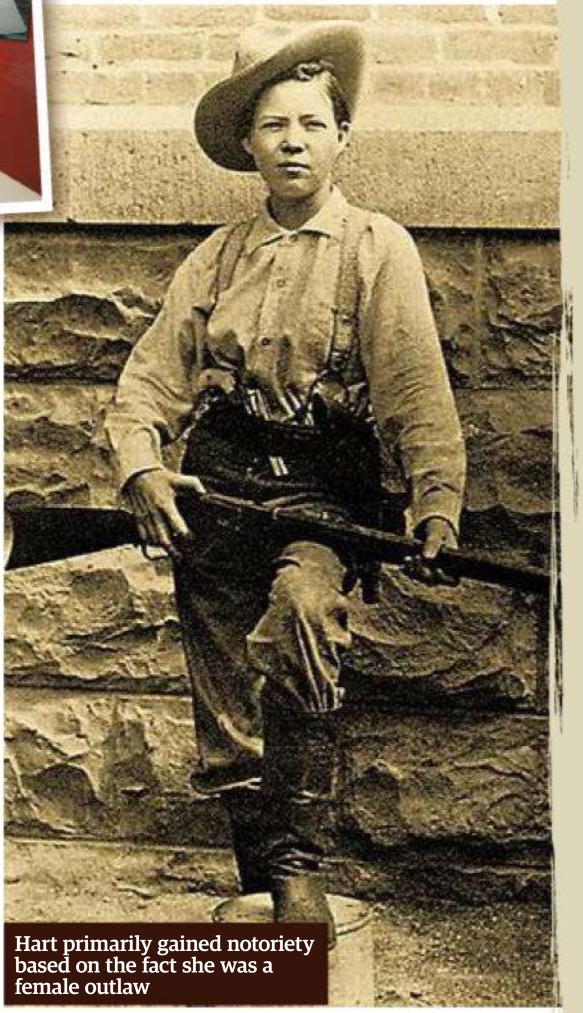

Hart primarily gained notoriety based on the fact she was a female outlaw

Bulette established a brothel that became a very popular venue with local miners

JULIA BULETTE

BIRTH-DEATH 1832–1867
STATE NEVADA

Truly exemplifying the trope of 'a sex worker with a heart of gold', Bulette became one of the most beloved citizens of Virginia City, a silver-mining town established near the Comstock Lode. Where miners went, prostitutes followed, as the workmen were excellent customers. Bulette moved to the area around 1860, working out of her cottage and attracting a lot of business, competing alone against the larger establishments.

Profiting from the world's oldest profession, Bulette gave some of her wealth back to the city, making generous donations to the fire department. She also donated her time, becoming an honorary firefighter. Crowned the Queen of the Comstock, Bulette would take pride of place atop Engine Company Number 1's fire truck in an Independence Day parade, wearing a fireman's hat and cradling a brass fire trumpet filled with fresh roses as the firefighters marched behind their queen.

Her kindness and warmth were well known within the community, so it was a shock when her body was discovered on 20 January 1967 beaten and strangled, with some of her possessions stolen. Tears were shed by many, and the mines, mills and saloons were closed down, showing just how respected she was. Her funeral had a procession of thousands, with 60 firemen leading the way to her burial place on Flower Hill.

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SALOO

WYATT EARP'S WILD WEST

With his own and his family's lives threatened by a murderous band of outlaws, Wyatt Earp took the law into his own hands and formed a posse to track them down, becoming a hunted outlaw himself

Four gunshots splintered another dry and dusty night in Tombstone, Arizona. A man, wandering from the town's central Crystal Palace Saloon back to the Cosmopolitan Hotel, suddenly felt time slow to a crawl as his back and arm were lit up in a blaze of agonising pain. The contact of three loads of double-barrelled buckshots slammed into him like a runaway freight train. The force of the impact sent him crashing back into the side of the Crystal Palace, with excess shots peppering the saloon's walls and smashing through its windows. In excruciating pain, the fallen man stumbled toward the Cosmopolitan, blood dripping from him onto the baked earth. Drawing upon his last reserves of energy, he managed to reach the hotel's entrance and fall through its door – a moment later everything was black. Across the street on the upper floor of an unfinished building, the assassins slipped away into the night.

The morning after, on 29 December 1881, Tombstone's Deputy Town Marshal Wyatt Earp sent a telegram that read, "Virgil Earp was shot by concealed assassins last night. His wounds are fatal. Telegraph me appointment with power to appoint deputies. Local authorities are doing nothing. The lives of other citizens are threatened. Wyatt Earp."

For weeks, Wyatt, his brothers and their friends had been receiving death threats for their role in the Shootout at the OK Corral, a gunfight that had seen a number of infamous outlaws taken out. The critical condition of his brother Virgil convinced Wyatt that everyone he knew and loved had been marked for death. Unfortunately, while the lawman knew those responsible he was powerless to act, with the Sheriff of Tombstone Johnny Behan openly hostile to the Earps. Behan was close friends with William 'Curly Bill' Brocius, whom Earp believed had his brother's blood on his hands.

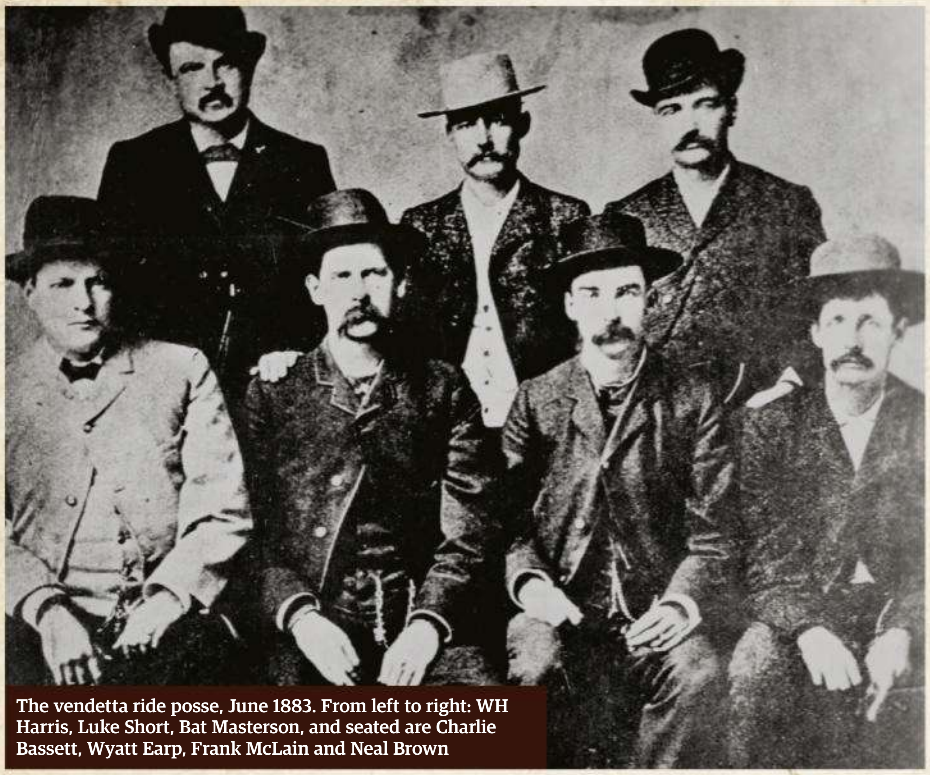
The tall, pale and serious-looking Wyatt, with his rough and gravelly voice, was going over the head of Behan to U.S. Marshal Crawley P. Dake, a man who had the authority to grant Wyatt deputising powers to assemble a posse capable of bringing the assassins to justice. The question was whether or not Dake would free his hands, and if so, how quickly his confirmation would reach Tombstone.

With the assassins still at large, the danger to all of the Earps and their friends was at a critical level. Luckily for Wyatt, he soon received a return telegram. In it, Dake officially bestowed deputising powers on Wyatt and issued a mandate that he was free to pursue the assassins at his discretion. The time for vengeance loomed.

Back at the Cosmopolitan, local doctor George E. Goodfellow amazingly announced that Virgil would live, although his left arm would be permanently crippled. Upon finally waking from his coma and being told about his crippled arm, Virgil showed the characteristic Earp grit by telling his wife Allie, "Never mind, I've got one arm left to hug you with."

While relieved that his brother had survived, hatred for the assassins had begun to take hold of Wyatt, with him thinking of little other than revenge. He also knew who could help him get it. His old ally Doc Holliday would ride with him, as would his other brother Warren Earp, but for a job like this he needed ruthless professionals. As such, Sherman McMaster and Jack 'Turkey Creek' Johnson were first on his list; tough men who had what it took to kill a man. Joining McMaster and Johnson would be Charles 'Hairlip Charlie' Smith and John 'Texas Jack' Vermillion – men who had a checkered past but experience of battle.

Three months passed after Virgil's shooting with no major activity. One of the Wild West's greatest lawmen hadn't been idle though, as by 18 March 1882 he had his posse gathered in Tombstone while his brother Virgil was making his first tentative steps out of his sickbed. It seemed things were falling into place for Wyatt. He just needed to ensure his brother's safe passage out of Arizona and the vendetta ride could begin. However, his plans were shaken to their foundations as the very night Virgil started walking again, his younger brother Morgan was set upon at Tombstone's Campbell & Hatch Billiard Parlor. He was shot through the establishment's window, the bullet shattering his spine and sending him shuddering back into a billiard table. Wyatt rushed to the parlour where he was


The vendetta ride posse, June 1883. From left to right: WH Harris, Luke Short, Bat Masterson, and seated are Charlie Bassett, Wyatt Earp, Frank McLain and Neal Brown

> "DRAWING HIS .44 SCHOFIELD SMITH & WESSON REVOLVER FROM HIS HOLSTER, WYATT CAREFULLY AIMED FOR STILWELL'S HEAD AND FIRED A SINGLE ROUND"

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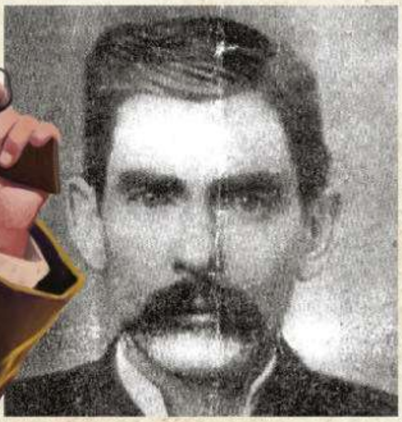
EARP'S VENDETTA POSSE



JOHN 'DOC' HOLLIDAY

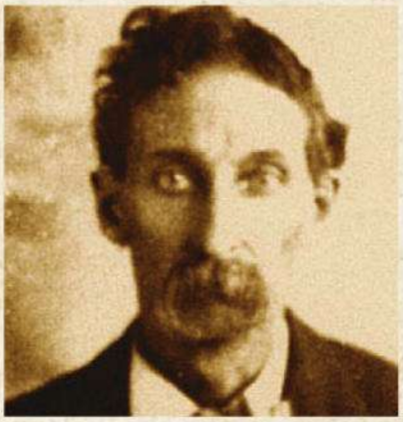
1851-1887

A trained dentist, professional gambler and sharp-shooting gunfighter, Doc Holliday was one of Wyatt Earp's best and oldest friends, famously fighting with him at the Shootout at the OK Corral. By the time of his death five years after the vendetta ride, Holliday had survived eight gunfights, killed six men and wounded countless others.

JOHN 'TEXAS JACK' VERMILLION

1842-1911

A close friend of Doc Holliday, Texas Jack was renowned throughout the Old West for his gunfighting abilities and ice-cold demeanour when under fire. He played a key role in the closing Iron Springs gunfight of the vendetta ride, fighting fiercely and fearlessly even when his horse was shot dead from under him during the confrontation.



DAN 'TIP' TIPTON

1844-1898

An experienced sailor and gambler, Dan Tipton was one of the people present when Wyatt Earp's brother Morgan was assassinated at the Campbell & Hatch Billiard Parlor in Tombstone, Arizona. He rode with Earp for the first part of the vendetta ride, witnessing the gunning down of outlaw Florentino 'Indian Charlie' Cruz at Pete Spence's wood camp.

forced to listen as his brother slowly bled to death. The outlaws had gone after two of his brothers, injuring one and killing the other. Wyatt swore that those responsible would be brought to justice and that he would be the one to deliver it.

The following day he decided that, regardless of Virgil's still weak state, he had to get him out of Arizona now or he would be the next to be taken out. At the same time the coroner Dr. DM Mather held an inquest into Morgan's death and discovered that Marietta Duarte, the wife of well-known outlaw Pete Spence, knew something and was ready to talk, as she had been habitually abused by Spence. Duarte told Matthew that the day before Morgan's assassination she had overheard her husband talking with Florentino 'Indian Charlie' Cruz. Apparently, Morgan had walked by and she had heard Spence say to Charlie, "That's him, that's him."

Duarte also said that this same night, Indian Charlie and Frank C. Stilwell came to Spence's house, armed with pistols and carbine rifles, and that they all talked outside for a while in hushed tones. The following morning, when Marietta confronted Spence about the night's activities, she recounted that Spence hit her and threatened to shoot her if she spoke to anyone about what she had heard. Spence, Stilwell and Cruz were now the prime suspects in Morgan Earp's murder.

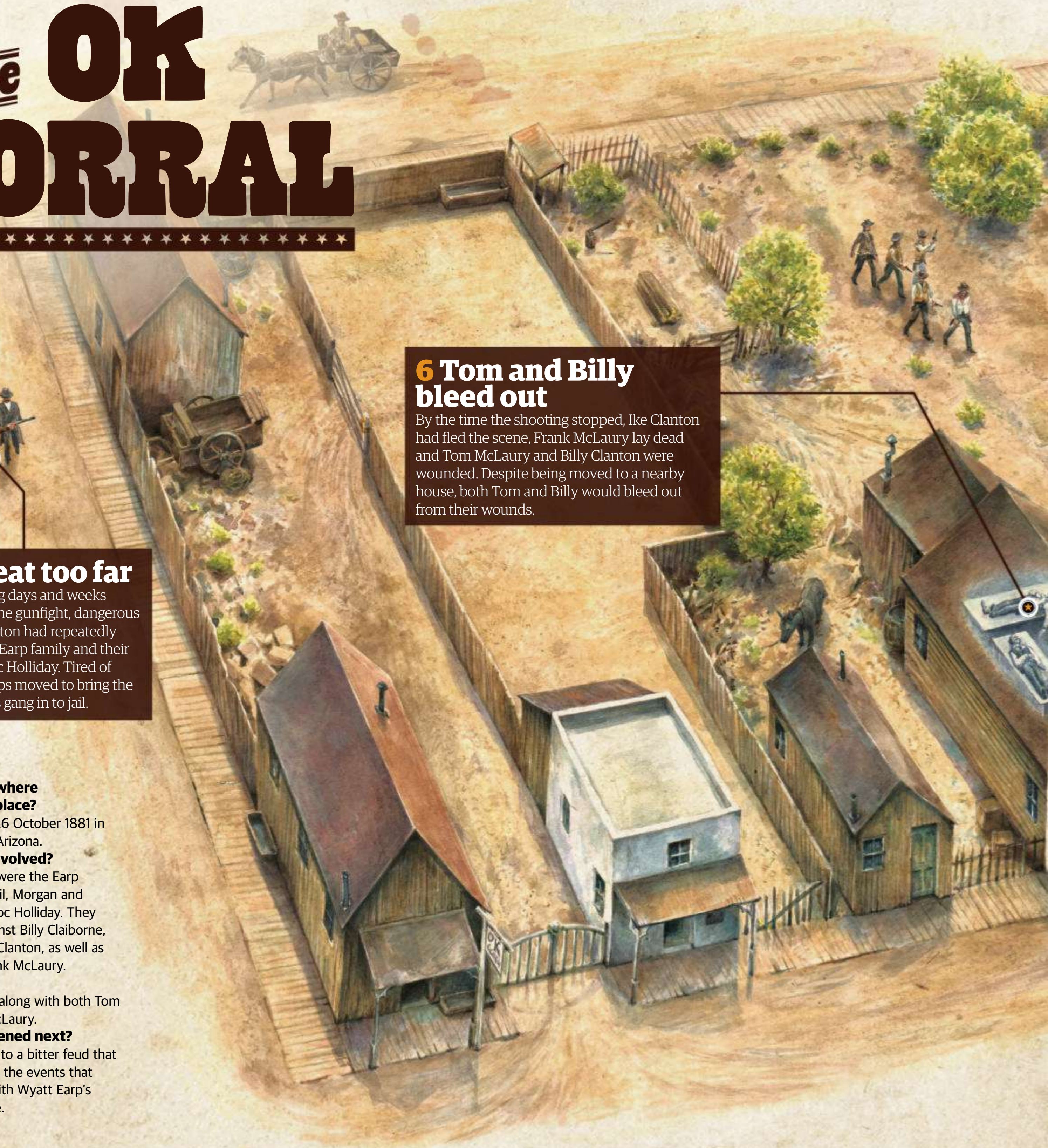
Duarte was called to testify to this in court and did so, Wyatt looking on from the rear of the courthouse. However, thanks to the then antiquated legal system, Duarte's testimony was dismissed because a spouse could not testify against her husband. Learning of the judge's decision to free the men, Wyatt knew the law could not be relied on to bring the outlaws to justice and realised the only way to put an end to his family's bloodshed would be to kill them all himself.

Arrangements were made to escort Virgil and his wife to the train station in Contention City, which they were to board on 20 March and leave the state. Upon arriving, news was received that Frank C. Stilwell and others were hunting Virgil and waiting

Before he became a man of the law, Wyatt Earp worked numerous jobs, including as a buffalo hunter and saloonkeeper

In the Wild West saloon bars were often where vendettas were settled

SHOOTOUT at the OK CORRAL



1 A threat too far

In the preceding days and weeks running up to the gunfight, dangerous outlaw Ike Clanton had repeatedly threatened the Earp family and their close friend Doc Holliday. Tired of threats, the Earps moved to bring the cowboy and his gang in to jail.

6 Tom and Billy bleed out

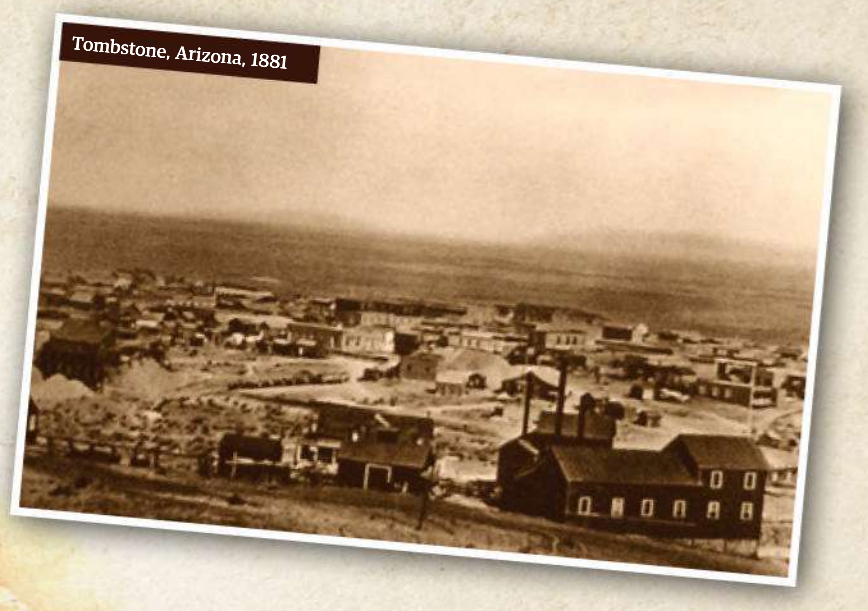
By the time the shooting stopped, Ike Clanton had fled the scene, Frank McLaury lay dead and Tom McLaury and Billy Clanton were wounded. Despite being moved to a nearby house, both Tom and Billy would bleed out from their wounds.

When and where did it take place?
Wednesday 26 October 1881 in Tombstone, Arizona.

Who was involved?
On one side were the Earp brothers Virgil, Morgan and Wyatt and Doc Holliday. They went up against Billy Claiborne, Ike and Billy Clanton, as well as Tom and Frank McLaury.

Who died?
Billy Clanton along with both Tom and Frank McLaury.

What happened next?
The fight led to a bitter feud that set in motion the events that would end with Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride.



Tombstone, Arizona, 1881

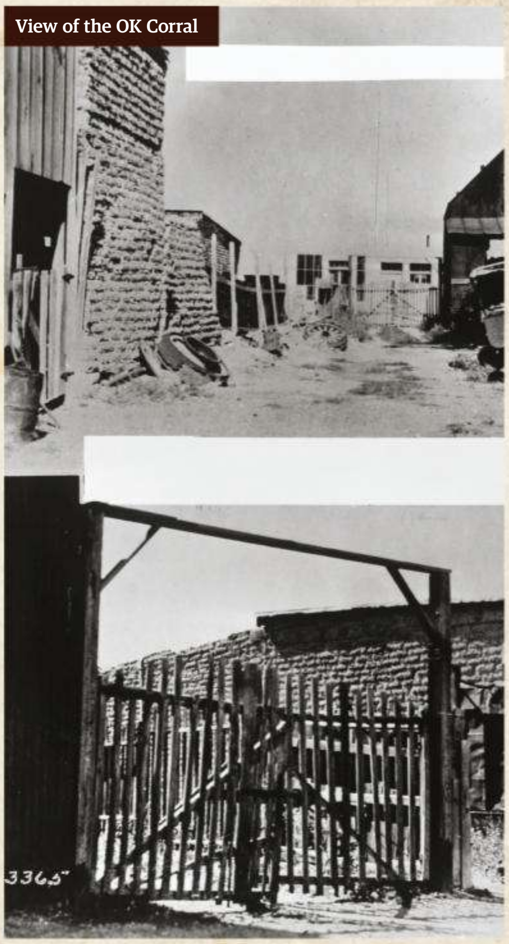
in Tucson – the next stop on Virgil's intended trip to California – to murder him. As such, Wyatt and his men remained with Virgil up to Tucson.

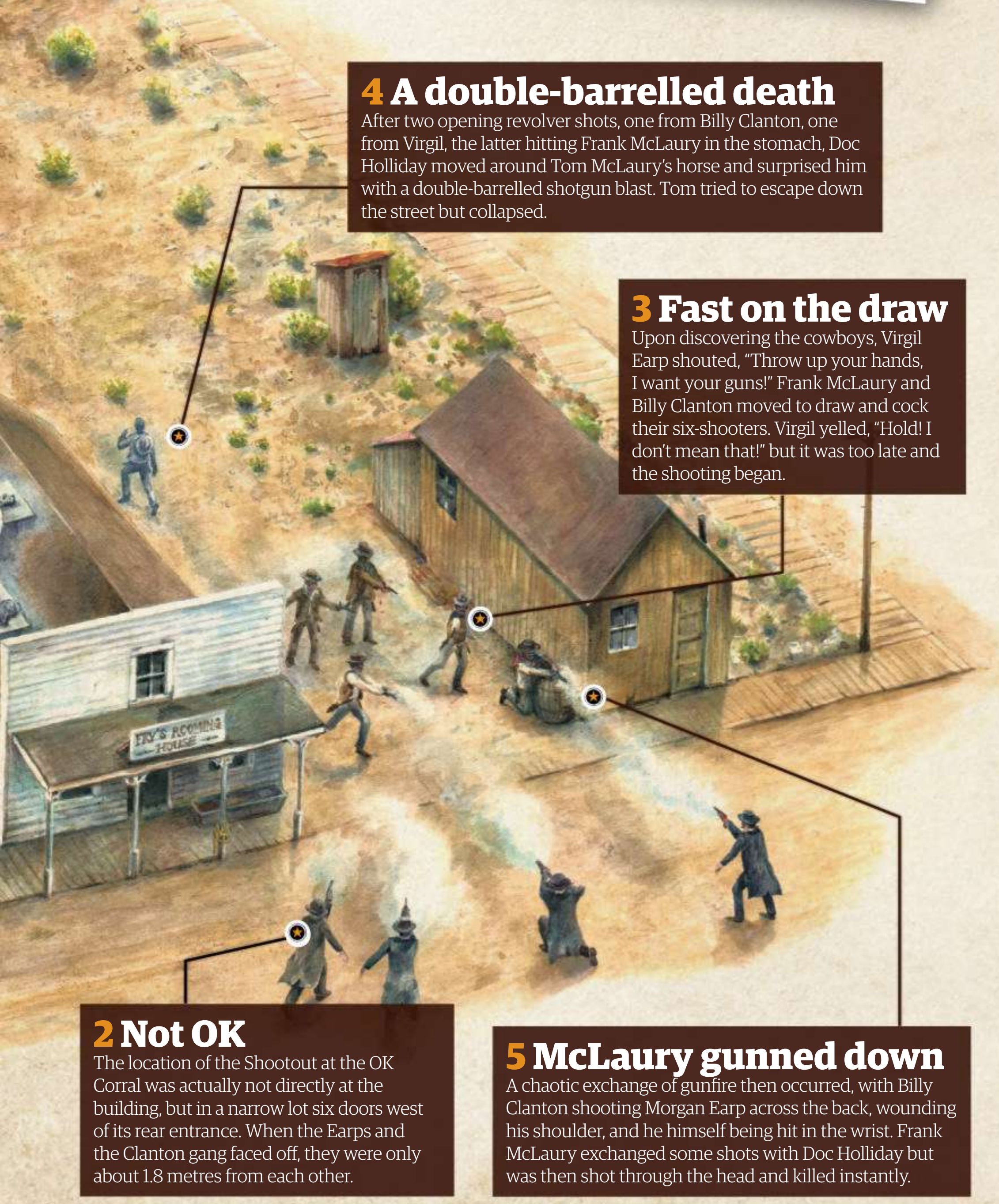
After spending a night in a nearby hotel before escorting Virgil and his wife to the train the next morning, Wyatt spotted two figures lying in wait on a nearby flat-car; Frank Stilwell and accomplice Ike Clanton. Years of experience as a lawman mixed in with the culminate rage of months of death, threats and living in fear, and Wyatt Earp ran full speed, shotgun in hand, at the men. Seeing Wyatt and Doc Holliday approaching, Stilwell and Clanton turned to run, but Stilwell tripped and fell. Scrambling around in the dust of the train yard, Stilwell attempted to regain his footing but it was too late; Wyatt was on him. A double-barrelled shotgun pointing directly at his chest at point-blank range, Stilwell caught a glimpse of the burning hatred within Wyatt's eyes before both barrels were unloaded into his torso.

Stilwell's short scream was immediately terminated with the blast, with six buckshot holes blown through his body and powder-burnt holes on the back of his coat. Drawing his .44 Schofield Smith & Wesson revolver from his holster, Wyatt carefully aimed for Stilwell's head and then fired a single round into his skull. Stilwell had been a lying, double-crossing, murdering rabid dog. There was only one thing to do with rabid dogs – put them down. Leaving Stilwell's corpse to grow cold in the early morning Sun, Wyatt and his posse watched as the train with Virgil and his wife on slowly pulled out of the station, bound for California and safety.

The gang made their way back to Tombstone, but back in Tucson the remains of Stilwell had

View of the OK Corral





2 Not OK

The location of the Shootout at the OK Corral was actually not directly at the building, but in a narrow lot six doors west of its rear entrance. When the Earps and the Clanton gang faced off, they were only about 1.8 metres from each other.

3 Fast on the draw

Upon discovering the cowboys, Virgil Earp shouted, "Throw up your hands, I want your guns!" Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton moved to draw and cock their six-shooters. Virgil yelled, "Hold! I don't mean that!" but it was too late and the shooting began.

4 A double-barrelled death

After two opening revolver shots, one from Billy Clanton, one from Virgil, the latter hitting Frank McLaury in the stomach, Doc Holliday moved around Tom McLaury's horse and surprised him with a double-barrelled shotgun blast. Tom tried to escape down the street but collapsed.

5 McLaury gunned down

A chaotic exchange of gunfire then occurred, with Billy Clanton shooting Morgan Earp across the back, wounding his shoulder, and he himself being hit in the wrist. Frank McLaury exchanged some shots with Doc Holliday but was then shot through the head and killed instantly.

been discovered and his killing linked to the Earp posse. Tucson Justice of the Peace Charles Meyer issued arrest warrants for all five members of the posse and sent a telegram back to Tombstone, stating that Sheriff Behan should arrest them. What Meyer couldn't have known, however, was that the telegraph office manager was a friend to the Earp family and upon receiving the telegram showed it to Wyatt when he rode into town.

The gunslinger knew that if his old adversary Behan saw the telegram he would try to stop the vendetta posse in its tracks, so he began preparing a quick exit. However, Behan had rushed to the hotel and found the men he was looking for in the lobby, heavily armed and about to leave. Walking straight up to Wyatt he told him that he was to accompany him back to the sheriff's office. Wyatt ignored him before walking through the lobby and outside.

They were met outside the hotel by further members of the posse, John 'Texas Jack' Vermillion and Dan 'Tip' Tipton, Charlie Smith, Fred Dodge, Johnny Green and Lou Cooley. Continuing to ignore an increasingly irate Behan, they saddled up and rode out of Tombstone.

The following morning, on 22 March, Wyatt rode into Spence's wood camp in the South Pass of the Dragoon Mountains. A quick inspection of the area revealed that Spence wasn't there – in fact, he had become so paranoid that Wyatt was going to kill him that he had handed himself in to Sheriff Behan's custody for protection. Wyatt was unaware of this and so decided to make one final search of the premises to make sure Spence wasn't hiding like the coward he knew he was. He suddenly saw movement, a figure running out to the rear and diving into the scrub. It wasn't Spence though, it

> "STILWELL HAD BEEN A LYING, DOUBLE-CROSSING, MURDERING RABID DOG. THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO WITH RABID DOGS – PUT THEM DOWN"

WANTED

The outlaws marked for death

WILLIAM 'CURLY BILL' BROCIUS 1845-1882

A violent criminal, cattle rustler and assassin, Curly Bill was the leader of the outlaws responsible for the murder of Wyatt Earp's brother Morgan. He was known as 'Arizona's most famous outlaw' and spent most of his time leading up to the vendetta ride robbing stagecoaches and threatening rivals with a bloody death.

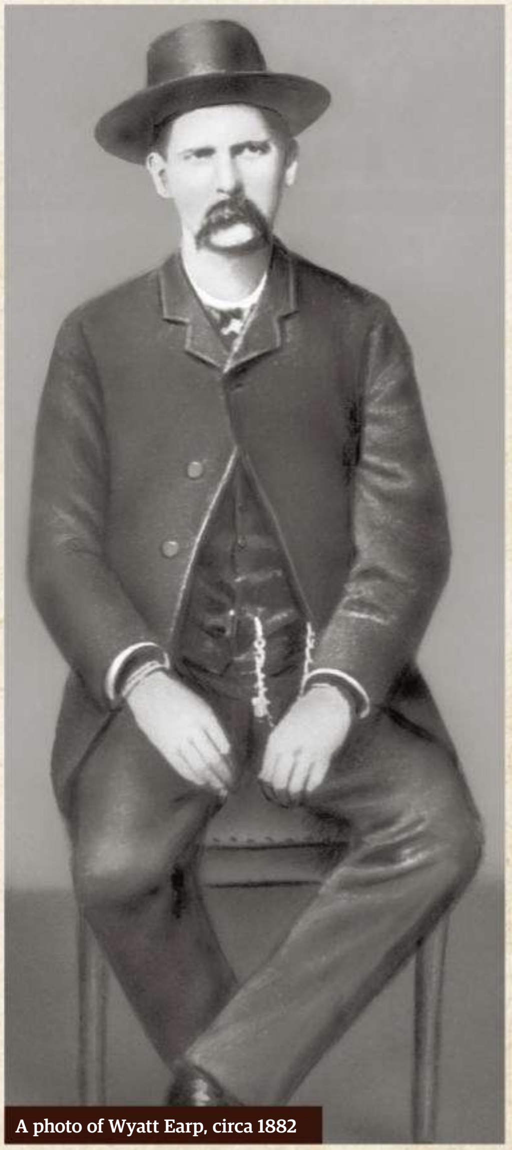
PETE SPENCE 1852-1914

Pete Spence was a well-known outlaw in Arizona, robbing stagecoaches and rustling cattle. He was a friend and business partner of fellow outlaw and killer Frank Stilwell, who along with Spence was a key suspect in the assassination of Morgan Earp.

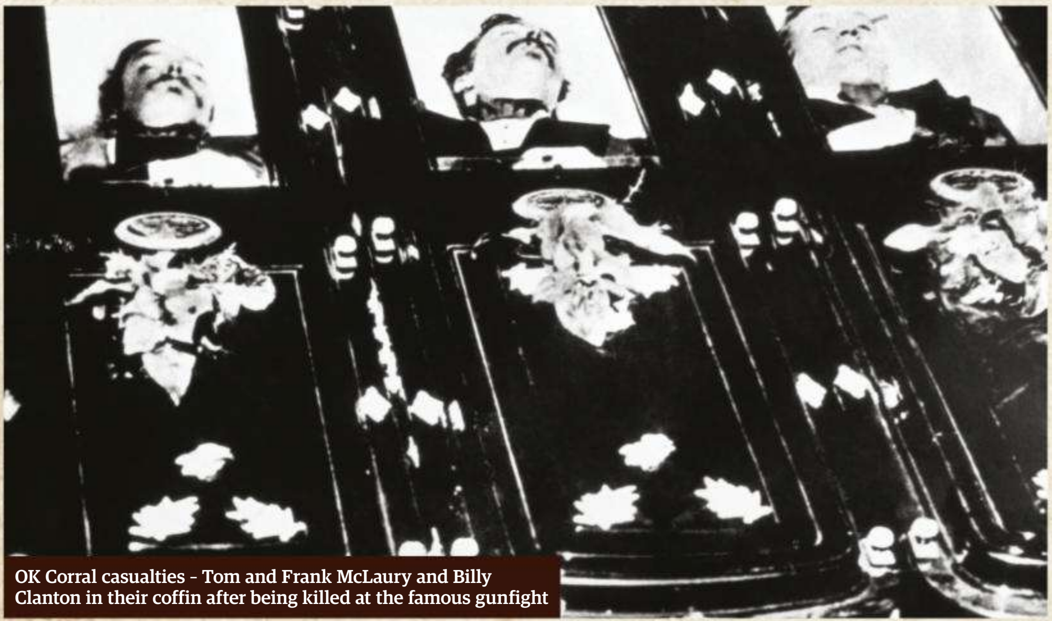
FRANK C. STILWELL 1856-1882

A miner and livery stable owner who was known to partake in illegal activities, Stilwell was famously identified as one of the outlaws who had ambushed and murdered Morgan Earp. Lack of evidence saw Stilwell walk free of any punishment, placing him high up on Wyatt Earp's vendetta kill list.

Wyatt's boyhood home



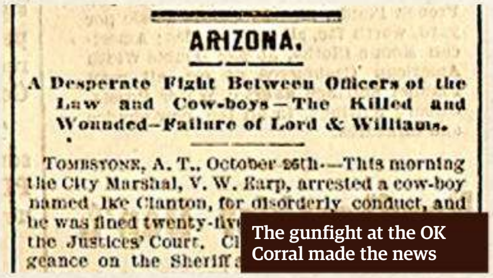
A photo of Wyatt Earp, circa 1882



OK Corral casualties – Tom and Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton in their coffin after being killed at the famous gunfight was Florentino 'Indian Charlie' Cruz, Spence's right-hand man.

Wyatt drew his pistol but couldn't get a clear shot, so he called for his men. Holliday, McMaster and Johnson were the fastest, drawing and firing from multiple positions at the fleeing Cruz, who was hit simultaneously in the arm, thigh and pelvis, bringing him crashing down into the dust. Cruz's cries of anguish echoed throughout the pass as he started to bleed out, all the time attempting to crawl into cover. Wyatt was on him quick as a flash, and Cruz started begging for his life. When questioned about the assassination of Morgan he confessed that he had been the lookout. As Wyatt pressed down on Cruz's wound with his spurred boot, a scream curdled out of Cruz into the pass and he shouted the names of the killers. William 'Curly Bill' Brocius. Frank Stilwell. Hank Swilling. Johnny Ringo. As he said each name, a death sentence was passed on them.

Cruz started shouting that Wyatt had got what he wanted and he should leave him alive and send him back to Tombstone. There was only one place Wyatt was going to send Cruz – straight to hell. Drawing his pistol, he placed it to the side of the assassin's head and, punctuated only by a final scream from Cruz, pulled the trigger. One down, three to go.



ARIZONA.

A Desperate Fight Between Officers of the Law and Cow-boys—The Killed and Wounded—Failure of Lord & Williams.

TOMBSTONE, A. T., October 26th.—This morning
the City Marshal, V. W. Earp, arrested a cow-boy
named Ike Clanton, for disorderly conduct, and
he was fined twenty-fiv
the Justices' Court. Cl
geance on the Sheriff

The gunfight at the OK Corral made the news

HUNTING A LAWMAN

The sheriff chasing down Wyatt Earp

A key player not just in Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride but also the famous Shoot-out at the OK Corral, Johnny Behan was the sheriff of Cochise County in Arizona Territory during both. After the climactic gunfight at the Corral, Behan famously testified against the Earp family, saying they precipitated the shootout and therefore murdered three outlaw cowboys in the encounter. The Earps were later exonerated, however, and so started a bitter feud between them and Behan.

While he was known to think himself a model of law and order, Behan in fact had a checkered life, with his wife leaving him in June 1875 for taking a mistress and sleeping with prostitutes. He was also particularly violent toward women, threatening them consistently, both verbally and physically. Behan also liked to associate and deal with known outlaws while off official business, dealing with cowboys such as Ike Clanton, Johnny Ringo and William Brocius, all three instrumental in the maiming of Virgil Earp and the murder of Morgan Earp.

Following Behan's famous confrontation with Wyatt Earp in the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Tombstone and then failed pursuit of Wyatt and his vendetta posse, Behan fell into another feud with his own deputy, Billy Breakenridge. Breakenridge accused Behan of misappropriation of illegal monies, and after an investigation Behan was shown to have set aside $5,000 from unknown sources while sheriff. While Behan escaped jail, he failed to be renominated as sheriff of Cochise County and was stripped of his rank and authority months after Wyatt left the state.

Behan was stripped of his rank soon after the Wyatt's vendetta ride

LAW AND ORDER – WILD WEST STYLE

Was there any system of justice in the American Old West?

The American frontier was huge and there was no standardised law-enforcement agency keeping control in the Wild West. As such, criminals found many opportunities to rob pioneer families, while what law there was found it difficult to track them down and bring them in, let alone provide concrete evidence that would see them sentenced in court. It was under this system that infamous cowboys such as Jesse James, Billy the Kid and Butch Cassidy thrived.

The result of this lawlessness and lack of authority led to many people taking the law into their own hands – as evidenced by Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride – with the law's apparent impotence to combat outlaws driving them to take extreme measures. This led to a culture of feuds, bounties and vengeance killings, with rival groups taking turns to avenge each other's latest illegal act. The natural conclusion of this ramshackle tit-for-tat system of justice was that it often led to violence for mere perceived threats rather than real acts of criminality. The end point for anyone successfully apprehended by law or outlaw was death, typically by shooting or hanging.

Further, the line between legal and illegal, good and bad, justified and cruel, was blurred in the Old West, with outlaws in one state perceived as respected lawmen in the next. Sheriffs, who are often depicted in films as bastions of honour and virtue, were often ex-outlaws themselves who had gained their position through violence and threats, ruling their territory like medieval barons. It was only when the U.S. became developed enough to establish a true federal system of law and order in the late 19th century that crimes like horse stealing, highway robbery, duelling and cattle rustling were effectively combated.

A horse thief being hanged in the American Old West

So, it had been Brocius who had orchestrated the murder. He should have known that his old enemy from the OK Corral was the mastermind behind his family's enduring misery. Wyatt and his posse saddled up their mounts and headed straight for Brocious' old prowling ground, the Whetstone Mountains.

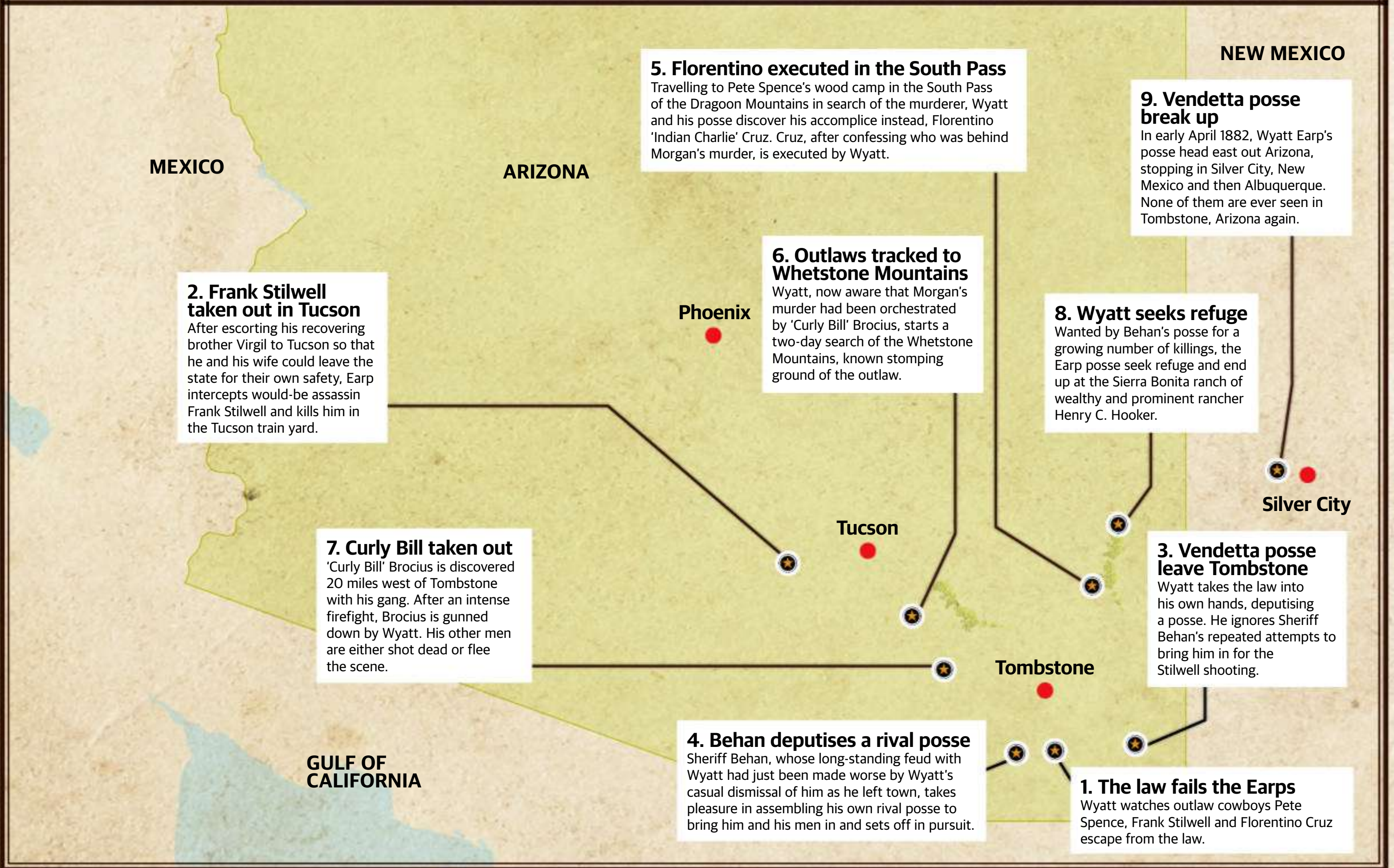
The posse searched the surrounding area for the next two days to no avail, eventually arriving at Iron Springs in the Whetstone Mountains. The area looked to be empty when the posse stumbled onto a group of cowboys cooking dinner alongside the spring. It took only a split second for Wyatt to identify Brocius and, in a heartbeat, he dismounted from his horse, grabbed his double-barrelled shotgun and burst around a ridge and down into the men's camp with Texas Jack, Doc Holliday and McMaster hot on his heels. Wyatt walked purposefully toward Brocius, his long trench coat flapping behind him in the wind.

Panic broke loose in the camp, with the outlaws all scrambling for their weapons. Like a rattlesnake, Brocius weaved to his own shotgun and turned and fired at the advancing Wyatt but missed the avenging town marshal. Texas Jack, who was sticking closely to Wyatt, drew his dual pistols and began firing at

Before he became a lawman, Wyatt Earp was one of the co-owners of the Oriental Saloon

MAP OF THE VENDETTA RIDE

Follow the key events of Wyatt's vendetta ride



1. The law fails the Earps
Wyatt watches outlaw cowboys Pete Spence, Frank Stilwell and Florentino Cruz escape from the law.

2. Frank Stilwell taken out in Tucson
After escorting his recovering brother Virgil to Tucson so that he and his wife could leave the state for their own safety, Earp intercepts would-be assassin Frank Stilwell and kills him in the Tucson train yard.

3. Vendetta posse leave Tombstone
Wyatt takes the law into his own hands, deputising a posse. He ignores Sheriff Behan's repeated attempts to bring him in for the Stilwell shooting.

4. Behan deputises a rival posse
Sheriff Behan, whose long-standing feud with Wyatt had just been made worse by Wyatt's casual dismissal of him as he left town, takes pleasure in assembling his own rival posse to bring him and his men in and sets off in pursuit.

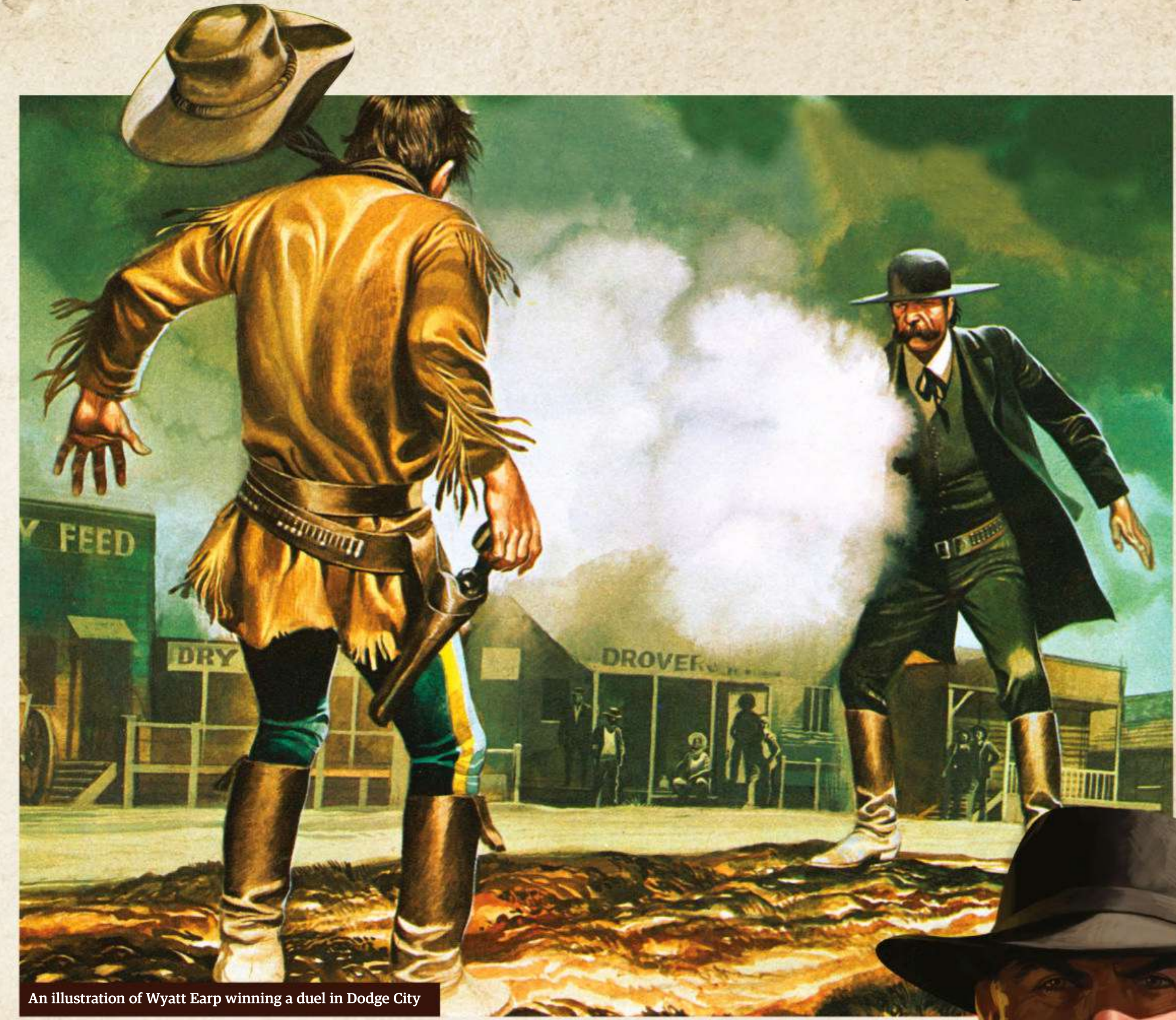
5. Florentino executed in the South Pass
Travelling to Pete Spence's wood camp in the South Pass of the Dragoon Mountains in search of the murderer, Wyatt and his posse discover his accomplice instead, Florentino 'Indian Charlie' Cruz. Cruz, after confessing who was behind Morgan's murder, is executed by Wyatt.

6. Outlaws tracked to Whetstone Mountains
Wyatt, now aware that Morgan's murder had been orchestrated by 'Curly Bill' Brocius, starts a two-day search of the Whetstone Mountains, known stomping ground of the outlaw.

7. Curly Bill taken out
'Curly Bill' Brocius is discovered 20 miles west of Tombstone with his gang. After an intense firefight, Brocius is gunned down by Wyatt. His other men are either shot dead or flee the scene.

8. Wyatt seeks refuge
Wanted by Behan's posse for a growing number of killings, the Earp posse seek refuge and end up at the Sierra Bonita ranch of wealthy and prominent rancher Henry C. Hooker.

9. Vendetta posse break up
In early April 1882, Wyatt Earp's posse head east out Arizona, stopping in Silver City, New Mexico and then Albuquerque. None of them are ever seen in Tombstone, Arizona again.



An illustration of Wyatt Earp winning a duel in Dodge City

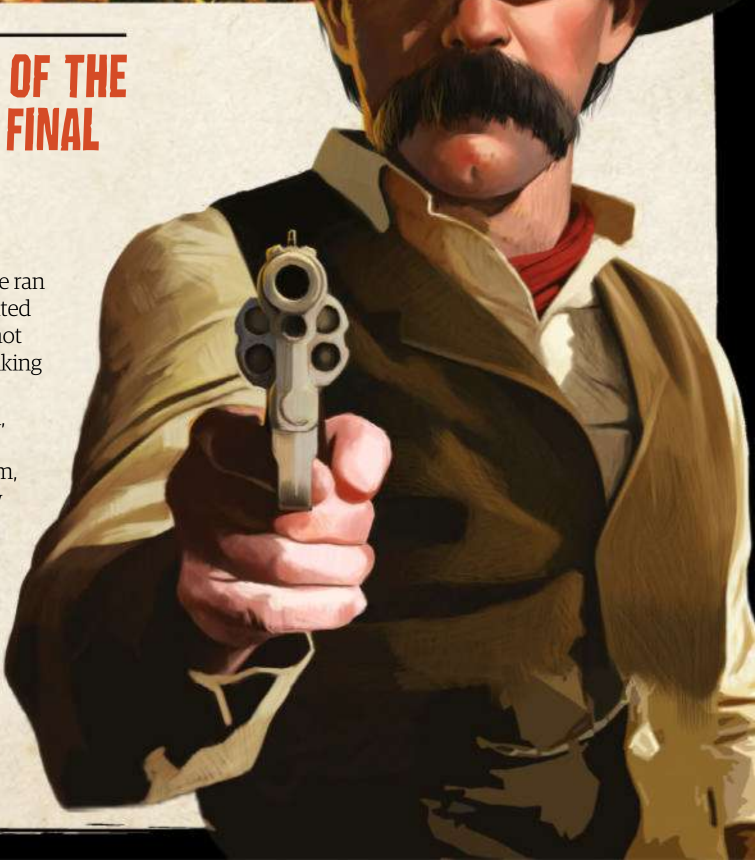
"DRAWING HIS PISTOL, HE PLACED IT TO THE SIDE OF THE ASSASSIN'S HEAD AND, PUNCTUATED ONLY BY A FINAL SCREAM, PULLED THE TRIGGER"

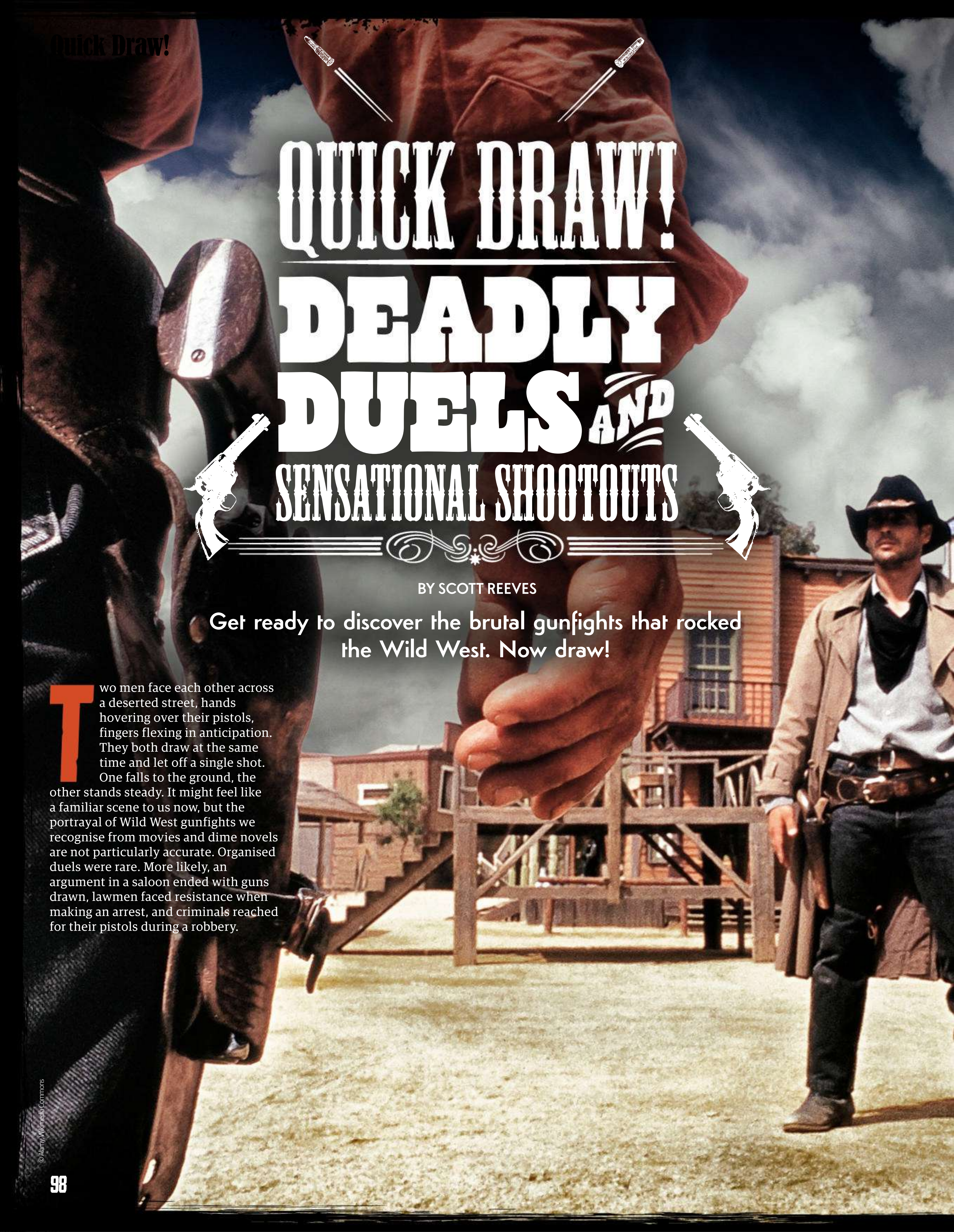
* * *

the outlaws. Brocius' men began firing back, rounds hitting Wyatt's coat and even Texas Jack's horse, which was killed instantly. Doc Holliday, McMaster and Johnson moved to cover and started shooting, while Texas Jack, after exhausting all the rounds in his pistols, dashed to his fallen horse in an attempt to retrieve his rifle.

During the chaos, Wyatt Earp had never taken his eyes off Brocius and calmly advanced on the killer. Time slowed and, with an unshakable purpose, Wyatt raised his shotgun, aimed directly at Brocius at point-blank range, and watched as the killer of his brother was blown in two. Seeing their leader dead, the rest of Brocius' party fled for their lives, but not before Wyatt had continued his vengeful rampage by killing Johnny Barnes with a gunshot round to the chest and wounding Milt Hicks with another shot.

The rest of Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride ran its course in the only way it could. Wanted by the law, Wyatt and his posse could not return to Tombstone. As such, after making a couple of stops at safe houses, most of his posse headed east out of Arizona, riding out of the state with the Sun on their backs. Behan never did catch them, and after arriving in Albuquerque, New Mexico, they went their separate ways. Vengeance had been delivered with an efficiency and brutality that would permanently affect the lives of all the men involved and cement their reputation as legendary figures. Justice - Wild West style - had been served.





QUICK DRAW! DEADLY DUELS AND SENSATIONAL SHOOTOUTS

BY SCOTT REEVES

Get ready to discover the brutal gunfights that rocked the Wild West. Now draw!

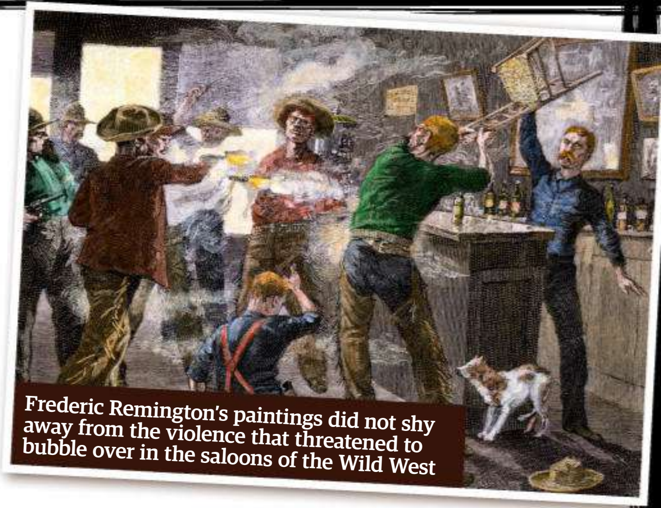
Two men face each other across a deserted street, hands hovering over their pistols, fingers flexing in anticipation. They both draw at the same time and let off a single shot. One falls to the ground, the other stands steady. It might feel like a familiar scene to us now, but the portrayal of Wild West gunfights we recognise from movies and dime novels are not particularly accurate. Organised duels were rare. More likely, an argument in a saloon ended with guns drawn, lawmen faced resistance when making an arrest, and criminals reached for their pistols during a robbery.

© Alamy, Wikimedia Commons

The gunfight made Stoudenmire famous. He died a year later in a shootout

FOUR DEAD IN FIVE SECONDS

DATE 14 APRIL 1881
LOCATION EL PASO, TEXAS
DEATH TOLL 4



Frederic Remington's paintings did not shy away from the violence that threatened to bubble over in the saloons of the Wild West

An inquest was hastily convened when the bodies of two Mexican cowboys, who crossed the border into Texas to search for 30 head of stolen cattle, were discovered near a ranch outside El Paso. The court concluded that two rustlers had killed the cowboys to stop them from recovering the stolen cows.

And that might have been the end of it. The crowd dispersed after the two accused were taken into custody, but violence erupted at a nearby saloon. Gus Krempkau, a constable who was part of the search that discovered the bodies and acted as translator at the inquest, was abused by former town marshal George Campbell for his apparent friendship with the Mexicans. Then John Hale – who owned a ranch suspiciously close to where the bodies were found – grabbed one of Campbell's two pistols.

Hale shot Krempkau, who slumped back injured against a door. Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire, hearing the commotion, walked in almost immediately afterwards with his pistols drawn. Stoudenmire shot and killed a man running for cover – he turned out to be an innocent bystander trying to get out of the way – then fired at Hale, hitting him between the eyes and killing him instantly. The wounded Krempkau pulled out his weapon and shot twice at Campbell, breaking his wrist and hitting his foot, before Stoudenmire fired a bullet into Campbell's stomach. Death soon claimed Krempkau and Campbell.

The local legend suggests that the four men were killed in the space of only five seconds. This bloody gunfight was over almost as soon as it began.

BATTLE OF INGALLS

DATE 1 SEPTEMBER 1893
LOCATION INGALLS, OKLAHOMA TERRITORY
DEATH TOLL 5

The Oklahoma town of Ingalls was happy to house the train and bank robbers known as the Wild Bunch since the gang spent freely, but a posse of 14 U.S. marshals decided enough was enough and rode to the town to take them down. Big mistake.

When George 'Bitter Creek' Newcomb walked out of the saloon most of the gang were drinking in, the marshals opened fire. The shots wounded the robber but also alerted the rest of the Wild Bunch. They rushed from a side door of the saloon, firing at the lawmen as they fled to the stables, hoping to saddle up and escape. The saloon bartender foolishly came out firing too and was wounded and arrested. He later had the cheek to sue the marshals for his injuries but the case was swiftly dismissed.

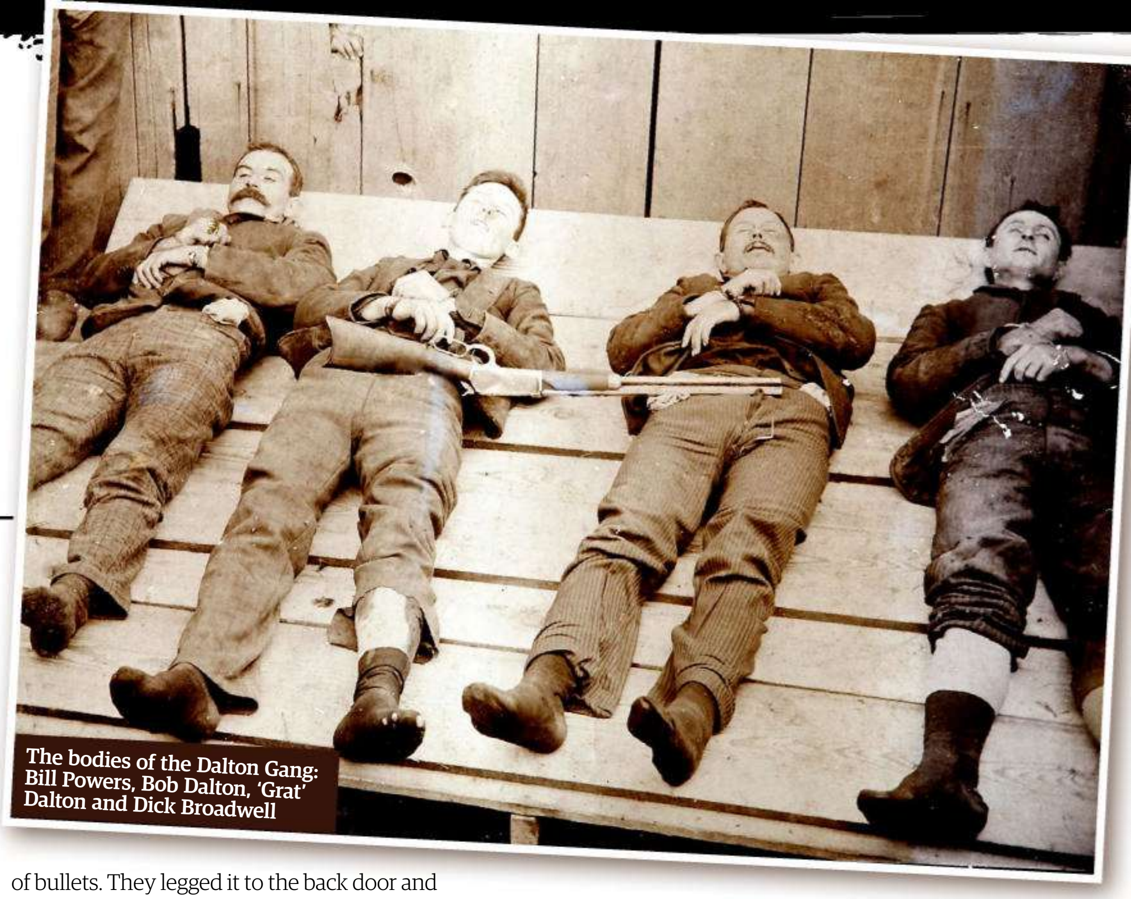
A bystander was killed as he tried to run to safety in a different saloon, and Deputy Marshal Thomas Hueston was fatally injured by 'Arkansas Tom' Jones, who fired from a hotel window. The two leaders of the Wild Bunch also claimed lives. Bill Doolin killed Special Deputy Marshal Richard Speed and Bill Dalton shot Deputy Marshal Lafayette Shadley, while another bystander was killed as the gang rode away.

Of the ten members of the Wild Bunch, nine managed to escape. Only Jones was captured after dynamite was flung into the room from which he was sniping, but his capture came at the cost of the lives of three marshals and two townspeople.

The Battle of Ingalls was a spectacular failure for the lawmen who wanted to arrest the Wild Bunch

COFFEYVILLE BANK ROBBERY

DATE 5 OCTOBER 1892
LOCATION COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS
DEATH TOLL 8


The bodies of the Dalton Gang: Bill Powers, Bob Dalton, 'Grat' Dalton and Dick Broadwell

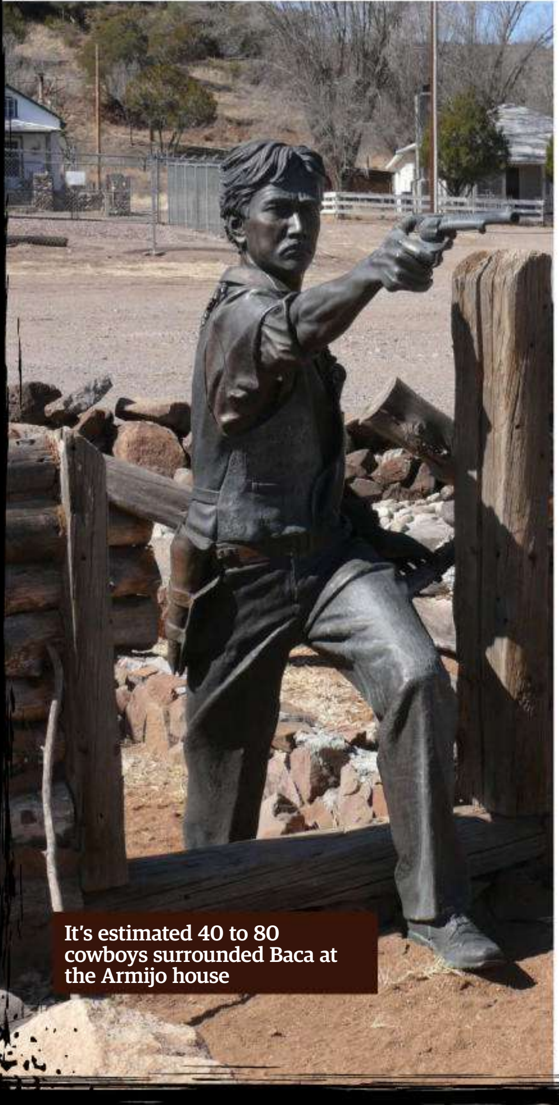
The Dalton Gang planned a grand robbery in their former hometown of Coffeyville – the simultaneous heist of two banks across the road from each other – but gang leader Bob Dalton would not allow anybody to recon the site beforehand for fear of being recognised. It didn't help. The five robbers tasked with the mission, three of whom were brothers, were immediately spotted as they walked up the street with rifles at their side. As soon as they were inside the doors, gun-toting townsfolk surrounded the banks to stop their escape.

The three robbers in Condon Bank demanded that the manager open the safe and believed him when he said it had a time lock and would not open for ten minutes. They decided to wait it out but were soon pinned down by townspeople firing through the windows. Meanwhile, Emmett and Bob Dalton left First National Bank and were greeted by a hail of bullets. They legged it to the back door and sneaked around the side, killing two men who had taken up positions near the front. One other civilian was killed in the crossfire.

The robbers fled to the alley where they had hitched their horses, shooting a marshal in the back who hadn't spotted them. Then, the outlaws began to fall. Bill Powers was shot and killed as he attempted to mount his horse. Gratton Dalton was shot in the throat, Bob Dalton through the heart. Dick Broadwell was shot as he escaped and was discovered dead a short distance away. Only Emmett Dalton survived to be jailed.

"BACA FLASHED HIS BADGE AND TOOK MCCARTY'S GUN, KEEPING HIM UNDER ARREST IN THE HOUSE OF GERONIMO ARMIJO. BUT THE COWBOY'S FRIENDS WERE HAVING NONE OF IT"

* * *


It's estimated 40 to 80 cowboys surrounded Baca at the Armijo house

FRISCO SHOOTOUT

DATE 1-2 DECEMBER 1884
LOCATION RESERVE, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY
DEATH TOLL 4

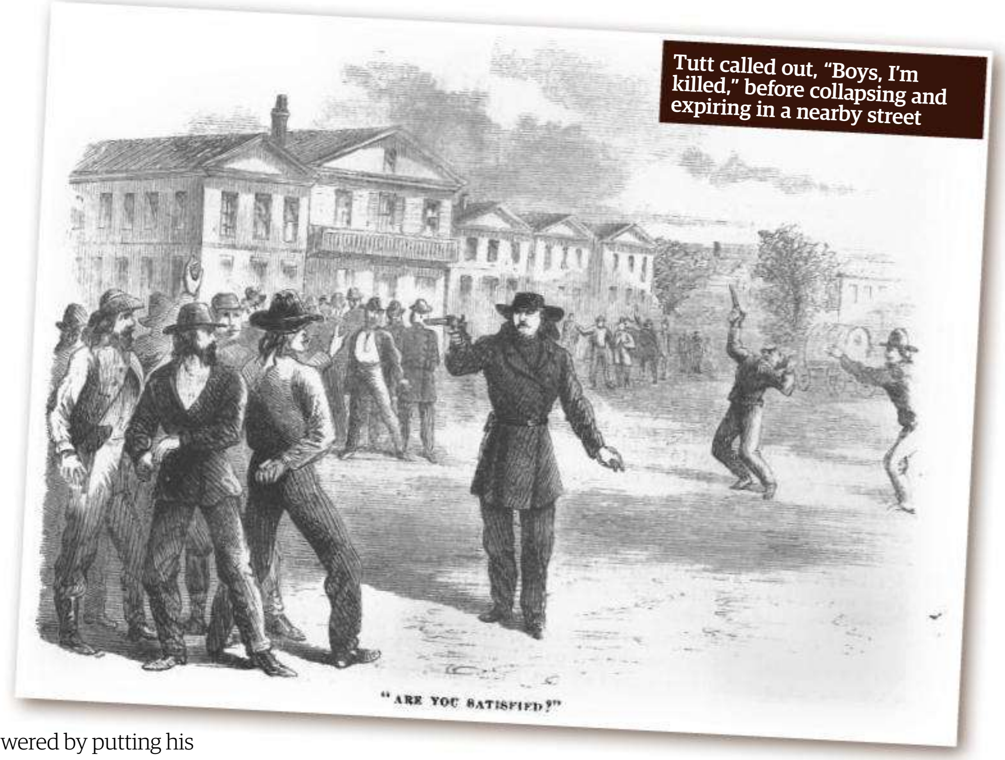
The Frisco Shootout and the life of Elfego Baca received the Disney treatment in 1958

19-year-old Deputy Sheriff Elfego Baca expected an easy arrest when he came across drunk cowboy Charlie McCarty firing shots in a saloon. Baca flashed his badge and took McCarty's gun, keeping him under arrest in the house of Geronimo Armijo, but the cowboy's friends were having none of it and tried to take him back by force. Baca fired at the group, injuring one and killing Young Parham when his wounded horse fell on him.

A local Justice of the Peace demanded McCarty be released and Baca retreated back to the Armijo house. A crowd of cowboys surrounded him. Now Baca was under siege. Bart Hearne, a rancher, tried to charge the door. Baca shot Hearne in the stomach, fatally wounding him.

The vigilantes took pot-shots at the house for 33 hours, reportedly firing as many as 4,000 rounds. Baca returned fire when he could, and some reports suggest he killed two more of the besiegers. Baca lay low when he wasn't shooting since the floor was sunk slightly below ground level, offering cover.

The cowboys only withdrew after lawmen arrived from nearby Socorro. Baca surrendered to them but insisted on walking out with pistols in hand. He was put on trial for the murder of Parham and Hearne but was acquitted. Among the evidence in his defence was the door of the house with 400 bullet holes in it.


"ARE YOU SATISFIED?"

Tutt called out, "Boys, I'm killed," before collapsing and expiring in a nearby street

HICKOK-TUTT DUEL

DATE 21 JULY 1865
LOCATION SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI
DEATH TOLL 1

'Wild Bill' Hickok and David Tutt were initially friends despite fighting on opposite sides in the American Civil War, but their relationship soured over women and money. When Tutt publicly swiped Hickok's pocket watch to keep as collateral for an alleged gambling debt, Hickok took it as a personal insult. Slurs were traded over the next couple of days as the humiliated Hickok demanded the return of his possession from Tutt, who refused to part with it.

When Tutt wore the watch hanging from his pocket in the town square in another deliberately public rebuke, Hickok strode into the square with his hand resting near his pistol. "Don't you come around here with that watch," Hickok warned. Tutt answered by putting his own hand on his pistol and pulling it from his belt.

The time for talking was over. The two men stood facing each other, around 70 metres apart. Nearby witnesses watched in tense silence. Hickok and Tutt raised their weapons, and both fired at almost the same instant. Tutt missed but Hickok had taken a moment to steady his pistol on his other forearm before shooting. His bullet hit Tutt in the ribs, who staggered away before collapsing near the local courthouse.

A jury acquitted Hickok of manslaughter after a three-day trial, deciding he had acted in self-defence due to Tutt's provocation and the fact that he drew his weapon first. Hickok, helped by interviews he gave to *Harper's Magazine*, became a legend of the Wild West due to surviving the rare quick-draw duel.

GENERAL OUTFITTING STORE
LONG BRANCH
G.M. HOOVER
CIGARS
DRY GOO
CLOTH

The Long Branch Saloon

LONG BRANCH SALOON GUNFIGHT

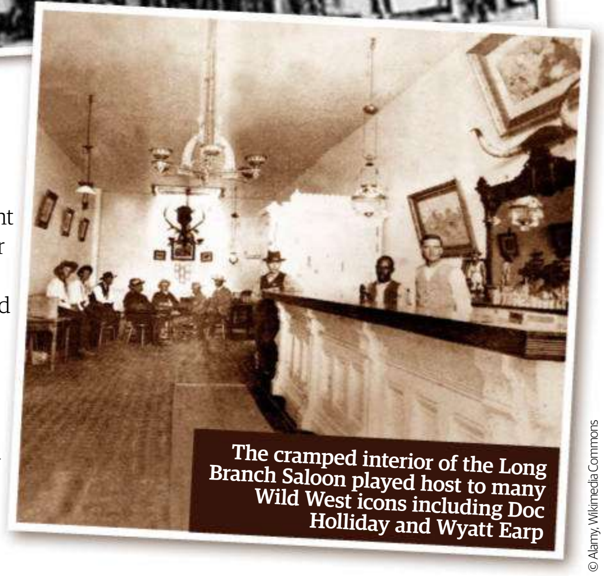
DATE 5 APRIL 1879
LOCATION DODGE CITY, KANSAS
DEATH TOLL 1

Frank Loving was a 19-year-old professional gambler who frequented the tables of the Long Branch Saloon. Levi Richardson was a buffalo hunter and marksman who was a little too friendly with Loving's wife. The two men spent weeks trading insults before a fistfight in the street ended with Richardson threatening to "blow the guts out of you, you cockeyed son of a bitch".

Richardson waited for Loving at the Long Branch Saloon on the evening of 5 April 1879, determined to settle matters once and for all. When Loving walked in, Richardson moved to join him at a long table and the two spoke in low voices. Suddenly it kicked off. Richardson said loudly, "You wouldn't fight anything, you damned son of a bitch." Loving replied, "Try me and see."

Both men drew their guns and began firing, chasing each other around the tables as other customers scattered. The sound of gunshots brought two town marshals running, but the fight didn't end before Loving emptied his six-shooter and Richardson fired five times.

When the smoke cleared, Richardson slumped to the floor. He had been shot in the chest, through the side and through his right arm. Loving suffered only a scratch to his hand – remarkable considering that the two men were so close their pistols were almost touching – and nobody else in the bar was injured. 'Cockeye Frank' had taken down the professional hunter and was cleared of the killing after the court determined he acted in self-defence.



The cramped interior of the Long Branch Saloon played host to many Wild West icons including Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp

© Alamy, Wikimedia Commons

CHEROKEE BILL

THE MURDERING KIND

BY MICHAEL E. HASKEW

Meet the young outlaw who ruthlessly terrorized the Indian Territory

He dealt in death – and he simply did not care. Crawford Goldsby, also known as Cherokee Bill, was a proficient killer who sowed the wind of murder and reaped the whirlwind on the gallows at the tender age of 20.

Goldsby's reign of terror in the Indian Territory (modern Oklahoma) lasted only two years. However, during that time he was said to have taken the lives of at least eight men and struck fear into the hearts of the inhabitants.

Born on 8 February 1876 in Fort Concho, Texas, Goldsby was the son of a Buffalo Soldier, Sergeant George Goldsby of the 10th U.S. Cavalry. The boy's mother, Ellen Beck Goldsby, was a former slave of the Cherokee tribe. Both parents were of mixed race: Black, white and Native American. By the time the boy was two his parents had separated, and his mother brought him to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory. Crawford later attended a school in Kansas and a trade school for Native Americans in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

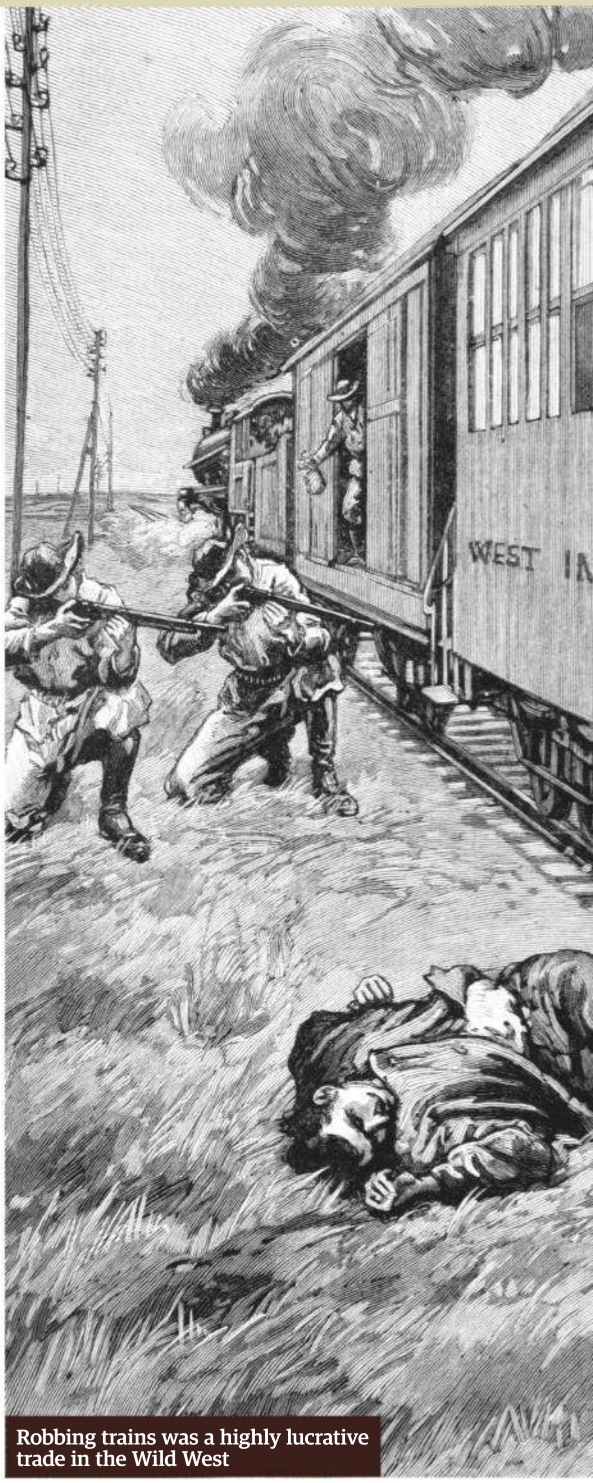
When Crawford was 12 he left school and returned to Fort Gibson, and it was only a short time until he laid his first man low. When his brother-in-law ordered him to feed some pigs, Crawford instead fetched a shotgun and shot his sister's husband to death. He avoided prosecution due to his tender age.

Like other iconic figures of the Wild West, the life of Crawford Goldsby is today a blend of fact and fiction; it is unclear exactly when he began his short-lived crime spree. In fact, some say that he killed his brother-in-law in 1894, at the age of 18. However, it is known that he was a member of the notorious Bill Cook Gang, and when he had reached his late teens Goldsby had developed a taste for train robbery and holding up banks.

By the time he met the Cook brothers, Bill and Jim, he was already on the run for shooting a man at Fort Gibson.

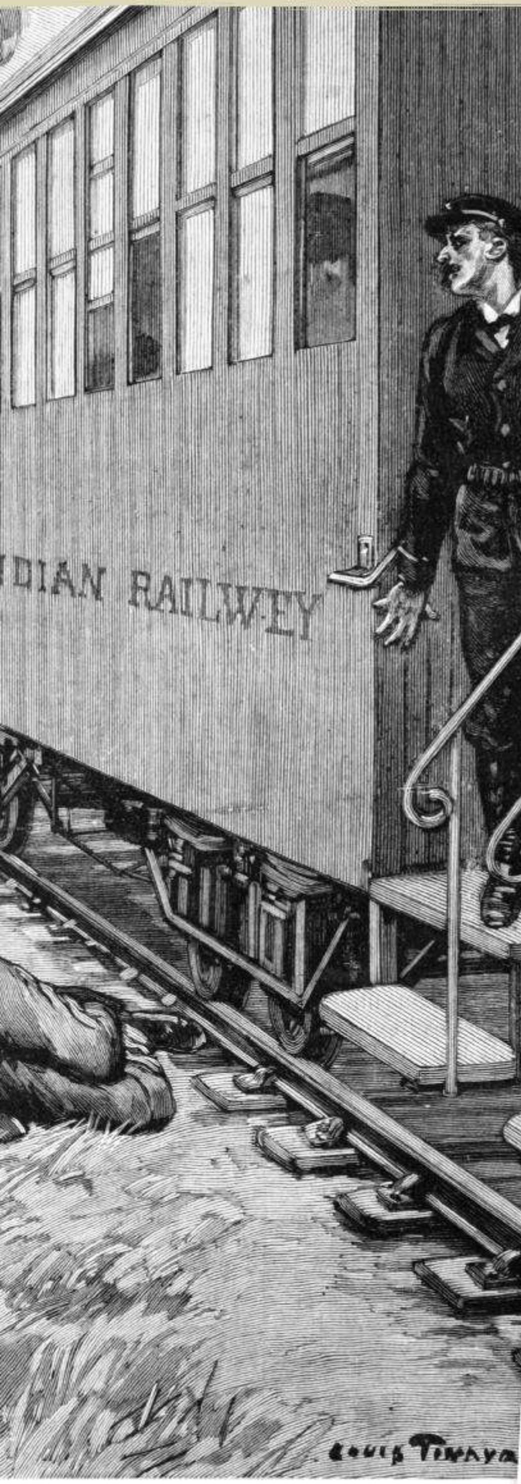
> "This is as good a day to die as any." – Cherokee Bill as he stepped into Fort Smith and saw the gallows

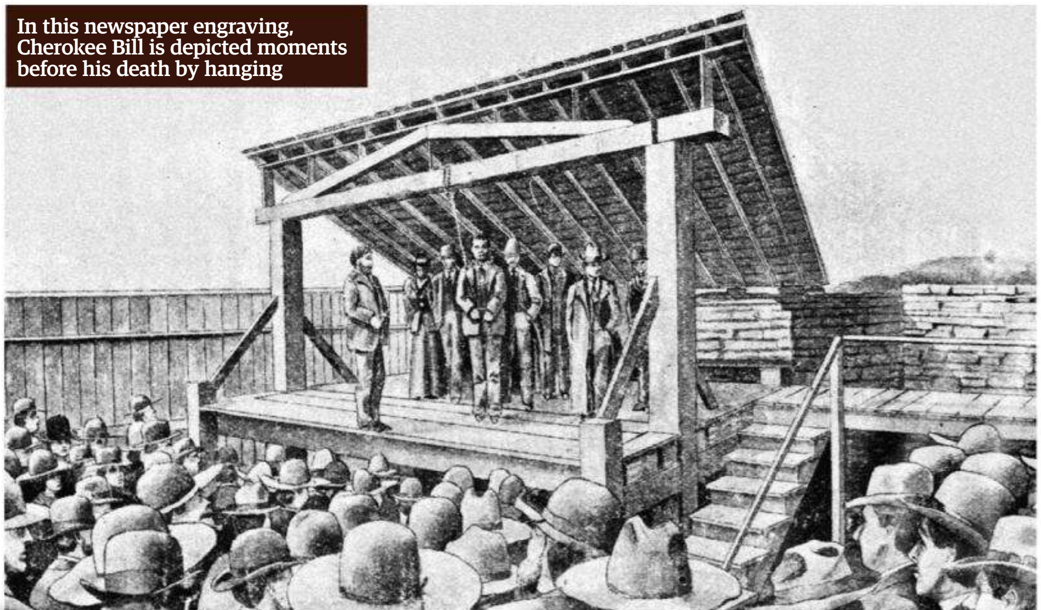
It is further unclear when or how Goldsby earned the nickname 'Cherokee Bill', but there is little doubt that it related to his ethnicity and that he rode with the Cooks, who were mixed-blood Cherokee. Some historians refer to the statement of a woman questioned by the local sheriff in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, as he tracked Goldsby and the Cooks. When asked if Goldsby had been involved in a nearby land claim and government payment, she said that the individual was Cherokee Bill. Soon enough, Cherokee Bill formed his own gang, and it is believed that he rode with other infamous outlaws of note, including Billy the Kid and Henry Starr.



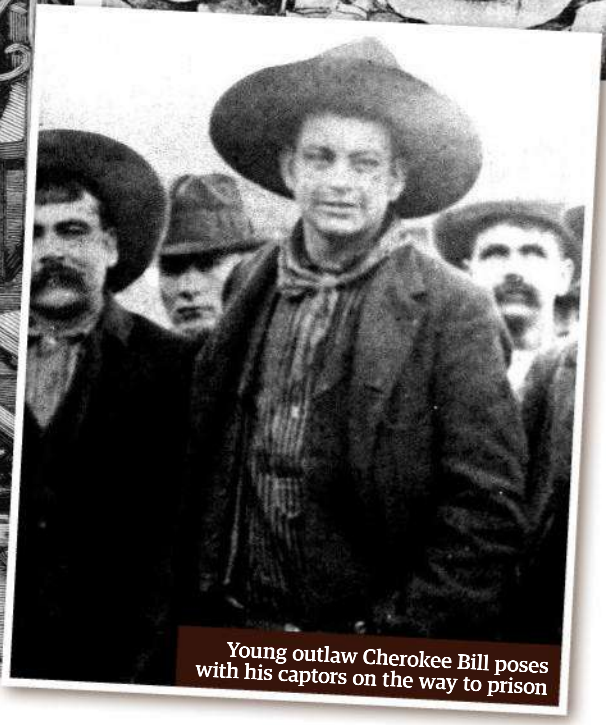
Robbing trains was a highly lucrative trade in the Wild West

From the spring of 1894 through to the end of the year Cherokee Bill either led or rode with the Cooks in a crime wave across Indian Territory. Targets included a bank in Chandler, Oklahoma, the Wells Fargo Express Company, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, and stores in the Oklahoma towns of Okmulgee, Correatta and Watova, among others. During one incident, the robbers hit the Shufeldt and Son General Store in Lenapah. A man named Ernest Melton just happened to enter the store while the robbery was in progress. Cherokee Bill shot the innocent man dead.




In this newspaper engraving, Cherokee Bill is depicted moments before his death by hanging

© Alamy, Wikimedia Commons


Young outlaw Cherokee Bill poses with his captors on the way to prison

Cherokee Bill stands beside his mother Ellen Beck Goldsby in this photograph

After the Melton murder Cherokee Bill had a price on his head, and the authorities intensified their manhunt for any former associate of the Cook brothers. A reward of $1,500 was offered for his capture, and this drew the attention of several acquaintances. With their assistance, lawmen Ike Rogers and Clint Scales finally captured the elusive Cherokee Bill at Nowata, Oklahoma, on 31 January 1895. He was taken to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where a federal district court would convene to decide his fate. Cherokee Bill was tried and convicted of murder on 13 April 1895, but the death sentence was delayed on appeal as his attorney argued that Judge Isaac Parker had not allowed a fair trial.

Six months after his arrest, Cherokee Bill attempted to escape from prison. After a gun was smuggled inside by a trustee, the outlaw exchanged shots with guards, killing one of them. A standoff ensued, and Henry Starr, who was also jailed at Fort Smith, stepped in to convince Cherokee Bill he would never get out alive. Bill gave the revolver to Starr and surrendered.

Justice was swift when Cherokee Bill was tried on a second murder charge in September 1895. In three days he was found guilty and sentenced to death. This time, the appeal went to the U.S. Supreme Court and was rejected. Judge Parker had always maintained that Cherokee Bill was a "bloodthirsty mad dog who killed for the love of killing".

A large crowd gathered in Fort Smith on 17 March 1896, and as the noose was placed around his neck, Cherokee Bill was asked if he had one last statement to make. He tersely replied, "I came here to die, not to make a speech."

Moments later, the life and brief but bloody career of one of the cruellest killers in the West were over.

WELCOME to the WICKED WEST

BY BEN BIGGS

Thousands of souls journeyed to the Front in pursuit of the American Dream, but many found themselves trapped in a nightmare at the hands of these infamous killers

For around 300 years, from the time of the first European settlers in the early 17th century up to the foundation of the last few States at the beginning of the 20th, Frontier America was a land of huge opportunity for many. Vast tracts of territory lay unclaimed across the continent, replete with untapped mineral resources, brimming with animals to hunt, timber to fell and fertile grasslands for farming. There was a good living to be made in this new world, but the land was also fraught with dangers: outlaws, cattle rustlers and Native American warriors, to name a few. And among those willing to take advantage of this relatively lawless land there prowled some for whom murdering people was just another way to make a living.

THE NEBRASKA FIEND

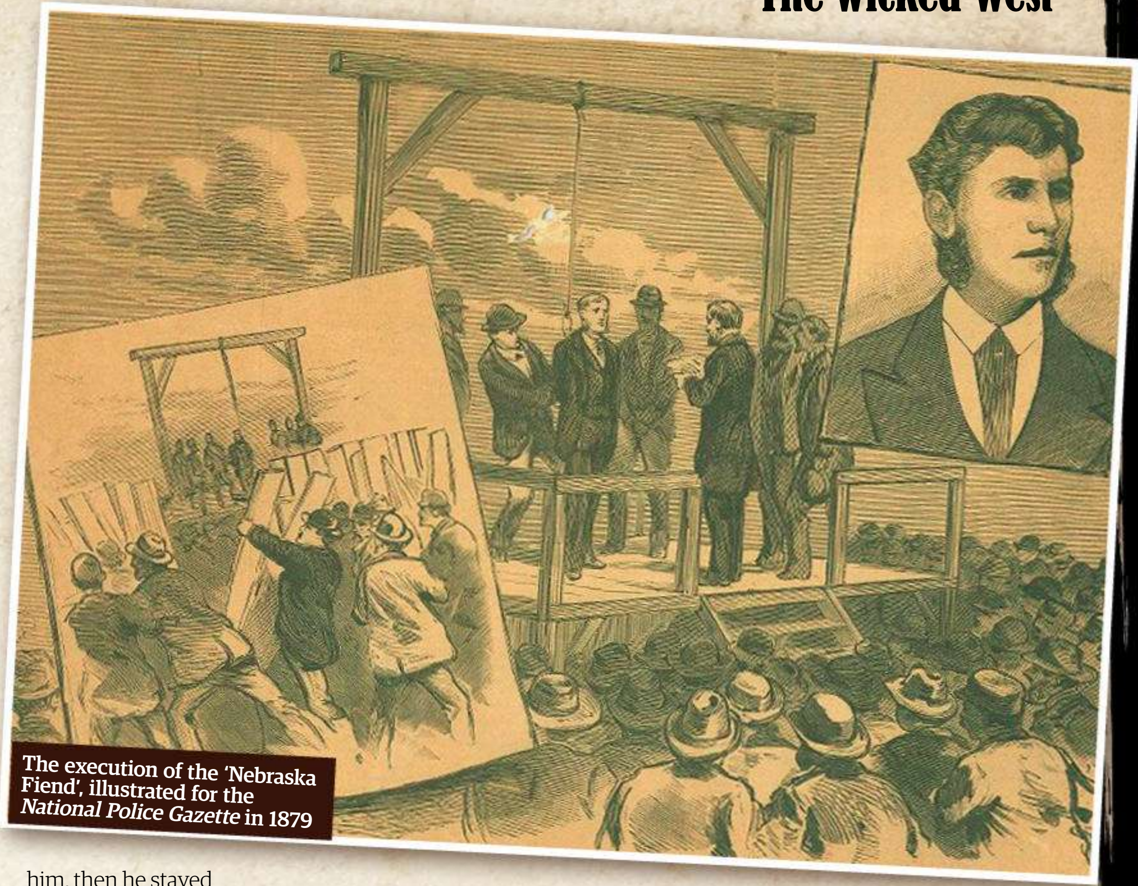
YEARS ACTIVE 1876–1878

Stephen D. Richards was an unsavoury character of low moral fibre who was in the habit of stealing or cheating people out of their hard-earned possessions, and he was not above murdering them in order to cover up or facilitate his crimes. The writers of the day have Richards down as a charismatic and handsome man, which was a useful cover for a dangerous serial killer, both in the commission of a crime and escaping the authorities. This charming facade has recently drawn comparisons with Richards and arguably the world's most infamous serial killer, Ted Bundy.

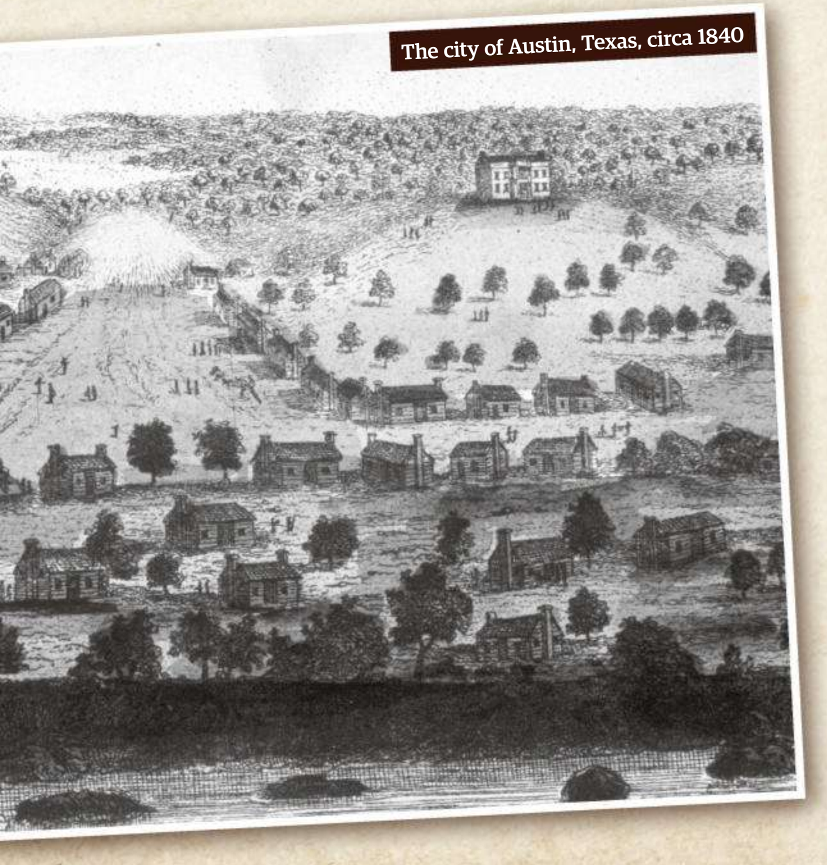
Richards is suspected of murdering nine people, although he was only convicted of five. Four of those victims were all members of the same family: the wife and children of notable train robber Jasper Harlson. After a stint in jail for larceny, he turned up at the Harlson's Kearney County homestead in Nebraska in October 1878. Old man Harlson was on the run and his wife, Mary, had agreed to sell the property to Richards for $600. Whether or not Richards actually handed over any cash is another matter. Within two weeks of arriving at the Harlson homestead he managed to woo Mary into marrying him, then he stayed in the house with her three children long enough to hatch a plot to secure the property for himself.

Early in the morning of 3 November, while the rest of the household was asleep, Richards snuck out and dug a large hole, then returned to the house and proceeded to beat Mary and her children to death with a heavy smoothing iron. He scrubbed the blood from the floor and his clothes, ate breakfast, then dropped the bodies into the hole.

After his arrest, and prior to his conviction for these murders in January 1879, he told the *New York Daily Herald* that he, "cared no more for killing the children than if they had been young jack rabbits". He was sentenced to hanging and was publicly executed on 26 April 1879.



The execution of the 'Nebraska Fiend', illustrated for the *National Police Gazette* in 1879



The city of Austin, Texas, circa 1840

AUSTIN AXE MURDERER

YEARS ACTIVE 1884–1885

In a case that remains unsolved, eight people in the city of Austin, Texas, are known to have been attacked in their beds at night by a bloodthirsty murderer wielding an axe. Five of the victims were Black women who worked as domestic servants, which earned the killer another moniker - the 'Servant Girl Annihilator'. All the victims suffered horrendous injuries pre- and post-mortem; six of the women had their skulls punctured through an ear with a sharp object.

Naturally, each crime scene was saturated with blood, and the killer left behind what would today be considered valuable evidence, such as an axe or bladed object used to kill the victim. Crucially, a bloody footprint missing a toe was left by the killer, too.

The Austin Axe Murderer's final two victims, Eula Philips and Susan Hancock, were both white, which galvanised the authorities into a renewed effort to catch the killer and attracted private investigators. It was all to no avail.

Three years later, and several thousand miles away in London, the notorious Jack the Ripper began terrorising Whitechapel. The term 'serial killer' was nearly 100 years away from being coined, and certainly the concept of a habitual murderer with a modus operandi that connected each of their murders wasn't fully understood. Serial killer cases were rarely recognised or reported for what they were, so in 1888, when it was suggested by a journalist for the *Atlanta Constitution* that the Austin Axe Murderer and Jack the Ripper could be the same person due to the mutilation of the victims, a theory was born that captured the public's imagination.

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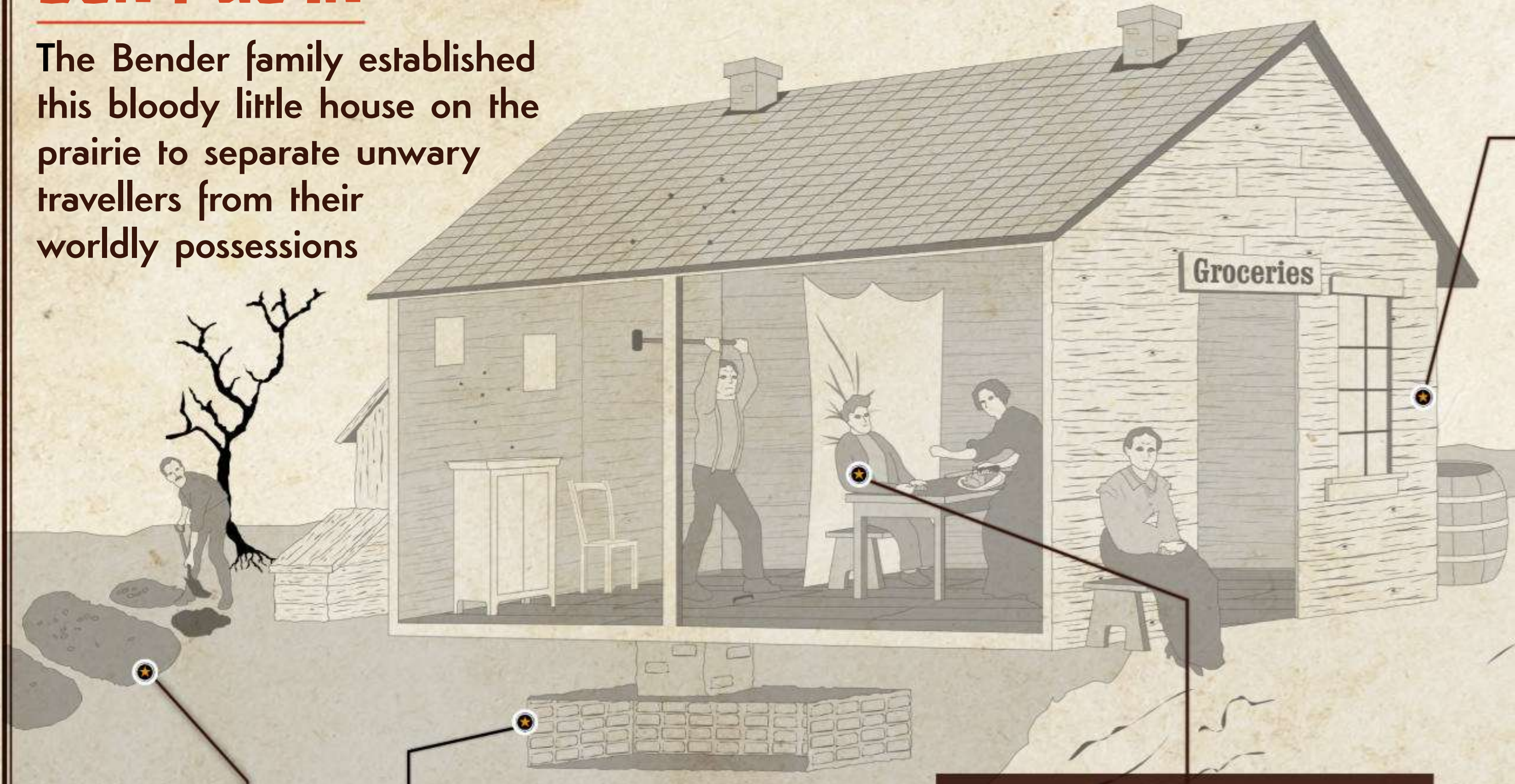
THE BLOODY BENDERS

YEARS ACTIVE 1872–1873

DON'T GO IN

The Bender family established this bloody little house on the prairie to separate unwary travellers from their worldly possessions



1. Young Kate Bender was a psychic medium and would charm their mark, inviting the victim into the house to have their future read. They would be seated at the head of the table as the "guest of honour", where one of the Bender men would strike them across the head with a lump hammer from the curtain behind them before Kate or Ma Bender cut their throats.

2. The trap door was just behind the guest's seat. After they were dispatched, the victim's body was relieved of valuables then tipped off the chair and down the open trap door into a brick-lined chamber.

3. Once the dust settled, the Benders sought an opportune time to bury the corpse, retrieving it from the chamber beneath their house. There were nine graves found in their orchard at the back of the house, though many more victims than that are suspected to have been murdered by this family of serial killers.

Kansas was still sparsely populated and at the edge of the frontier in 1870, though there were plenty travelling across the state in search of a new life. So when an immigrant family turned up in Labette County that October, no one batted an eyelid as the four members of the Bender family set up a general store and a boarding house where weary travellers could stay called the Wayside Inn. Though there are questions over whether the Benders were family in anything but name, John Bender, Snr., was considered the patriarch, Ma Bender his wife, John, Jnr., and Kate Bender their adult children.

Less than six months into the Benders settling down in the county people started disappearing or turning up dead. A certain Mr Jones had his throat slit and head smashed in at a mining claim in Drum Creek in May 1871. Two more bodies were found by the creek in February 1872, then several more people that same year mysteriously disappeared. Locals began to get suspicious: it wasn't unheard of for people to be murdered in these parts – it was the Wild West, after all. But it was happening too often and it had coincided with the arrival of the Benders. When Dr. William York went missing the authorities started to pay attention.

One of Dr. York's brothers was a state senator, the other was an army colonel. Colonel York was given

"TWO MORE BODIES WERE FOUND BY THE CREEK, THEN SEVERAL MORE PEOPLE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

4. Over a dozen bullet holes were found in the walls and ceiling of the Bender house, so it seems likely that not all of their victims died without putting up a fight.

the authority to assemble 50 men and made for Labette County, arriving at the Benders' property in March 1873.

After York questioned the Benders he spoke with the townsfolk, who agreed to issue search warrants on all the properties between Big Hill Creek and Drum Creek.

Days later, when the search party arrived at the Bender property, they found it completely abandoned and stripped of all valuables. What they found inside the house was horrific: a trapdoor with a blood-soaked chamber below and shallow graves in the orchard containing the bodies or body parts of more than 11 people. The Benders were never found, but it's likely that they continued their murderous ways elsewhere.

BELLE GUNNESS

YEARS ACTIVE 1884–1908

Born Brynhild Paulsdatter Storset in central Norway, 1859, Belle emigrated to the U.S. in 1881, married Mads Sorensen in Chicago in 1884, then embarked on a career in murdering her spouses and children in order to collect the insurance policies placed on their lives. Their house and the candy store that Mads and Belle owned was first to go, burning down soon after their marriage. Then their two children both died from intestinal problems, followed by Mads in 1890, who died of a cerebral haemorrhage. In each case, Belle collected the money from insurance that had been placed on their lives – two policies in Mads' case: it was likely no coincidence that he had died on the final day before one policy expired and the first day that a new policy became active.

She married Peter Gunness in 1902 and murdered his baby daughter a week later before killing Peter himself eight months later by crushing his head with a meat grinder. She told the authorities that the grinder had fallen on him after he had reached for something on a high shelf.

Somehow, she got away with these murders and was able to fraudulently claim thousands of dollars in insurance. Encouraged by this success, she began placing newspaper ads for marriage in 1905, turning the murdering of men and children for money into an industrial process.

Belle disappeared in 1908 after her farmhouse in La Porte, Indiana, burned down. When investigators explored the ruins they found the headless body of a woman, the bodies of Belle's three children and later, the remains of at least 11 other people buried in shallow depressions on the land. These bodies had been dismembered and covered with caustic quicklime: someone had wanted to get rid of these corpses fast. The body of the headless woman was identified as Belle and she was promptly declared dead despite a doctor testifying that Belle was significantly taller and heavier than the deceased woman. One theory is that she had faked her own death by burning the farm down and planting the headless body of a woman she had killed in the house in order to throw investigators off the scent. If the body wasn't Gunness' and this was all part of a devious plan to get away with fraud and serial murder, it worked. Belle was never seen again.

Belle Gunness with three of her children in a photograph taken in 1904

© Getty

Cave-In-Rock, on the Ohio River, where the Harpe brothers holed up and murdered travellers by pushing them off the top of the bluff

THE HARPE BROTHERS

YEARS ACTIVE 1797–1804

Long before they were robbing, raping and murdering under their own auspices, Micajah and Wiley Harpe were Tory militias in the American Revolution. Ostensibly loyal to the British, they carried out atrocities against Patriot colonists in North Carolina in the name of King George III, although these murderous criminals were motivated by greed and dark appetites rather than any affiliation to crown and country. The British gave them no weapons, uniforms or even pay, so the Harpe brothers had to rob the living or loot battlefields to survive.

Their crimes peaked long after the end of the American Revolution, when the brothers had settled in Tennessee and changed their surname to sound more like that of a Patriot than a Loyalist. They stole livestock from neighbours, and given any opportunity these sadists would murder people at the drop of a hat, ripping their chest cavities open and filling them with stones so as to weigh them down in rivers or pools. They didn't flinch at killing children and infants, and when they escaped a Kentucky prison they tortured and murdered the young son of a man who had helped the authorities with their capture. It seems that in their desperation to evade the law their cruelty soared to new heights.

They captured and robbed travellers along the banks of the Ohio River, stripped them and forced them to jump off the high cliffs to their deaths. This was too much even for the Mason Gang, a group of river pirates that the Harpe brothers were staying with at the time. Disgusted, the Masons forced the Harpe brothers to move on. Eventually, their many crimes caught up with them.

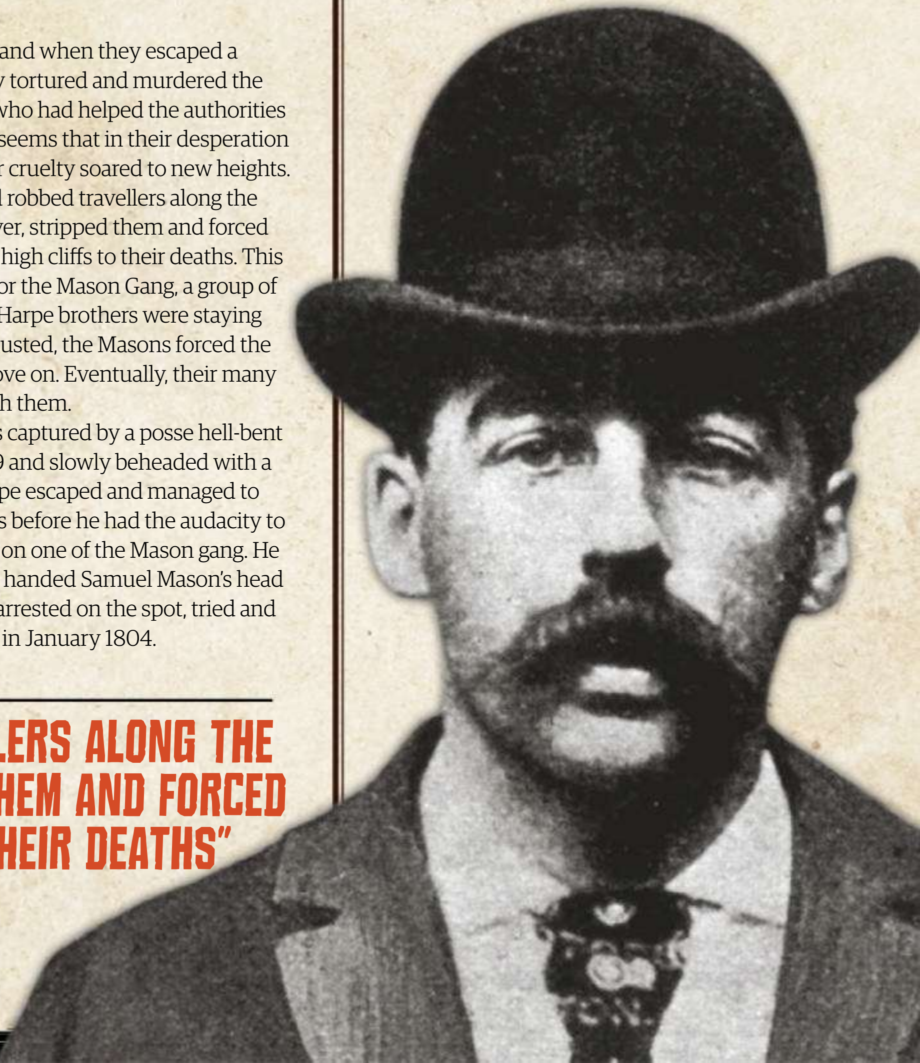
Micajah Harpe was captured by a posse hell-bent on vengeance in 1799 and slowly beheaded with a long knife. Wiley Harpe escaped and managed to last another five years before he had the audacity to try to claim a bounty on one of the Mason gang. He was recognised as he handed Samuel Mason's head in to the authorities, arrested on the spot, tried and executed by hanging in January 1804.

"THEY CAPTURED AND ROBBED TRAVELLERS ALONG THE BANKS OF THE OHIO RIVER, STRIPPED THEM AND FORCED THEM TO JUMP OFF THE CLIFFS TO THEIR DEATHS"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

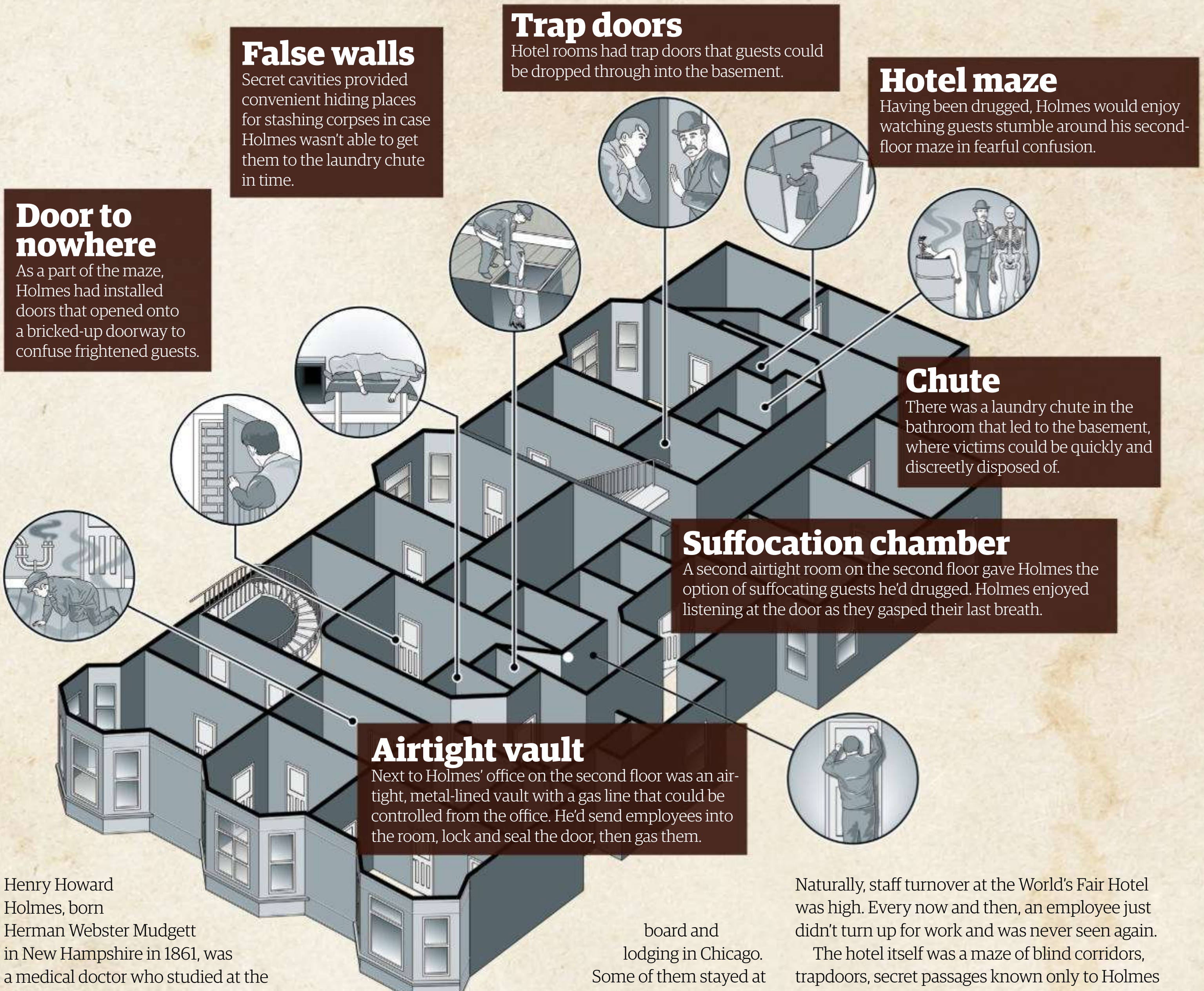
MURDER HOTEL

Holmes' World's Fair Hotel was deviously constructed; a Salvador Dali nightmare designed to confuse and trap guests who had been earmarked for slaughter



H.H.HOLMES

YEARS ACTIVE 1886–1894



Door to nowhere

As a part of the maze, Holmes had installed doors that opened onto a bricked-up doorway to confuse frightened guests.

False walls

Secret cavities provided convenient hiding places for stashing corpses in case Holmes wasn't able to get them to the laundry chute in time.

Trap doors

Hotel rooms had trap doors that guests could be dropped through into the basement.

Hotel maze

Having been drugged, Holmes would enjoy watching guests stumble around his second-floor maze in fearful confusion.

Chute

There was a laundry chute in the bathroom that led to the basement, where victims could be quickly and discreetly disposed of.

Suffocation chamber

A second airtight room on the second floor gave Holmes the option of suffocating guests he'd drugged. Holmes enjoyed listening at the door as they gasped their last breath.

Airtight vault

Next to Holmes' office on the second floor was an airtight, metal-lined vault with a gas line that could be controlled from the office. He'd send employees into the room, lock and seal the door, then gas them.

Henry Howard Holmes, born Herman Webster Mudgett in New Hampshire in 1861, was a medical doctor who studied at the universities of Vermont and Michigan. He was, at various points in his chequered career, a drugstore general manager, a hospital worker and an entrepreneur. He was also a con man, fraudster, a violent husband to his spouse Clara Lovering and, in the latter years of his life, a cold-blooded serial killer who constructed a hotel in Chicago dedicated to the industrial-scale slaughter of its unsuspecting patrons.

Holmes built and opened the hotel in time for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in the city. The Expo was wildly popular, and people flocked from all over the U.S. to visit, inevitably needing board and lodging in Chicago. Some of them stayed at Holmes' 'World's Fair Hotel'. Many of them didn't leave alive.

In his twisted genius, Holmes hired and quickly fired contractors in the construction of his murder hotel, so that no one person became familiar with its layout. The drugstore and concessionary shops were placed on the ground floor, while the basement and the second floor was where hotel business was conducted - that is to say, the business of murdering guests, people who were a threat to his livelihood and anyone Holmes didn't like. His employees had to take out a life insurance policy in which Holmes was the sole beneficiary.

Naturally, staff turnover at the World's Fair Hotel was high. Every now and then, an employee just didn't turn up for work and was never seen again.

The hotel itself was a maze of blind corridors, trapdoors, secret passages known only to Holmes and airtight rooms that could be filled with deadly gas. In the basement was an incinerator and drums filled with acid. There was also a dissection table that Holmes used in the processing of body parts for sale to local medical schools.

Holmes was eventually caught after conning a fellow con man who knew about his hotel of horrors and decided to shop him to the authorities. He was arrested in November 1894 and hung in May 1896. When his murder hotel was searched, it was estimated that anything from 27 to 250 unfortunate people had been 'processed' in his basement.

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LETHAL LAWMEN

Meet the men tasked with rooting out the robbers, rustlers and murderers who thrived on the frontier

BY SCOTT REEVES

Upholding the law in the Wild West was near impossible, but there were a few willing to take on the challenge. The skills needed by marshals or sheriffs were comparable to those of the crooks they chased – a calm head in a crisis, a steely determination, and, most of all, a steady aim with a gun. Perhaps that's why some lawmen committed a little crime themselves, tempted by the offer of a large payday or letting the power they wielded go to their heads. Yet a dedicated few stood by their principles and slowly made the West a little bit less wild.

Sheriffs and marshals had the power to arrest and often shot to kill, but many overstepped their legal authority

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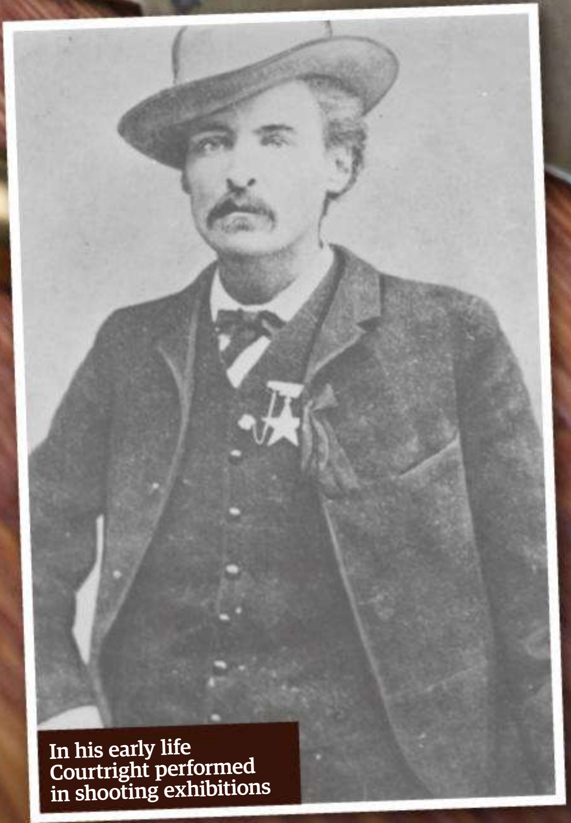

In his early life Courtright performed in shooting exhibitions

'LONGHAIR JIM' COURTRIGHT

BIRTH-DEATH 1848-1887
STATE/JURISDICTION TEXAS, NEW MEXICO
KILLS ON DUTY AT LEAST 7

Courtright was a 28-year-old drifter who turned up in Fort Worth, Texas, and narrowly won the election to become the town's first marshal. Recognisable by the long hair that gave him his nickname, Courtright was a domineering presence who was perfectly happy to take on rowdy drunks with his pistols. He reportedly killed at least five men in Fort Worth, including one suspect who shot and killed a deputy marshal in a street fight.

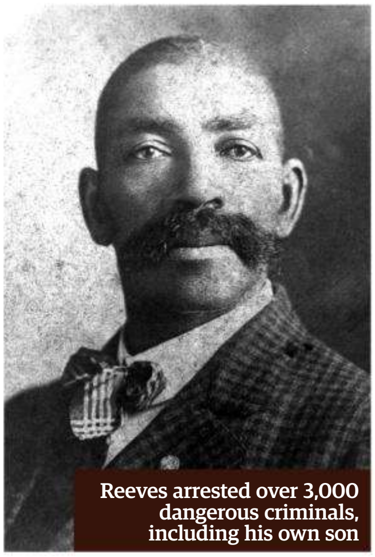
However, Courtright used the authority his badge gave him to step over the line separating legality and criminality. After a stint as marshal in Lake Valley, New Mexico, Courtright was forced to flee back to Fort Worth when a warrant was put out for his arrest. He had been part of a six-man posse who murdered two squatters in a land dispute.

Back in Fort Worth, Courtright resumed a protection racket that first began when he was the town's marshal. In return for a share of profits, Courtright promised that he and his heavies would provide security for gambling dens and saloons, particularly those in the red-light district known as Hell's Half Acre.

However, a new saloon-keeper was in town. Luke Short was as belligerent as Longhair Jim and told the former marshal where to go when Courtright came looking for his payoff. Courtright called Short out and the two met face to face on the street. Both pulled pistols and fired, but, for the first time, 'Longhair Jim' Courtright was too slow. He was hit three times, including one bullet to the heart that killed him.

BASS REEVES

BIRTH-DEATH 1838-1910
STATE/JURISDICTION ARKANSAS, TEXAS, OKLAHOMA TERRITORY
KILLS ON DUTY 14



Reeves arrested over 3,000 dangerous criminals, including his own son

One of the most famous African Americans of the Wild West, Reeves was born a slave before escaping from his master during the Civil War and hiding among Native Americans. After emancipation, Reeves spent ten years as a farmer before his knowledge of tribal languages led to him being headhunted as a deputy marshal.

Reeves spent 18 years upholding the law in Arkansas before being reassigned to Texas for four years and Oklahoma for a decade. Judges could rely on Reeves to hunt down and bring in their most wanted criminals. He carried a pocketful of warrants on long trips that often covered more than 600 miles. By the end of his long career he had arrested more than 3,000 felons. A further 14 were unwise enough to resist and were killed in shootouts, including one particularly nasty outlaw named Bob Dozier, but Reeves was never wounded himself, although his hat and belt were holed by bullets in near misses.

Perhaps the most difficult arrest Reeves had to make was that of his own son, who was charged with the murder of his wife. Benjamin accepted his inevitable fate and was taken into custody by his father to serve 11 years in prison. Reeves himself was also charged with murder after he shot a posse cook, but he was acquitted after the jury decided the death was caused by an accidental discharge while Reeves was cleaning his gun. No doubt his spotless record as a marshal helped them reach their decision.

Contemporary television has started depicting a more diverse Wild West, such as including Bass Reeves in the US time travel series *Timeless*

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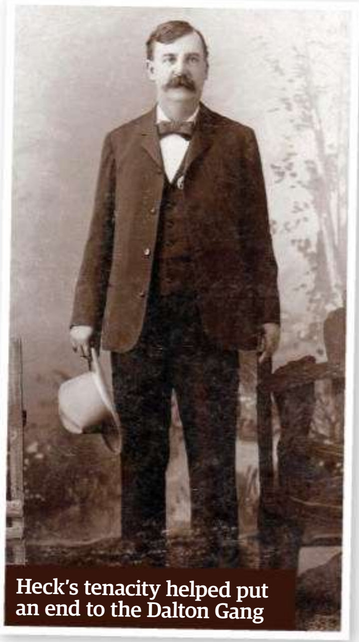
Frontier lawmen, including 'Heck' Thomas (seated left), often made use of Native American scouts in their long patrols and pursuits

'HECK' THOMAS

BIRTH-DEATH 1850-1912
STATE/JURISDICTION GEORGIA, TEXAS, ARKANSAS, OKLAHOMA TERRITORY
KILLS ON DUTY UNKNOWN



Heck's tenacity helped put an end to the Dalton Gang

Thomas embraced danger at an early age. His uncle was a brigadier general in the Confederate Army; Thomas joined him on the battlefield at 12 years old and was entrusted by Robert E. Lee to take the horse of a killed Union general through the lines. After the war, Thomas served in Atlanta's police department and as a Texas railroad detective. He helped to foil an attempted train robbery by the Sam Bass Gang but was wounded in the shootout.

Thomas was later appointed a deputy marshal working out of Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1886 and quickly earned a reputation as a fearless lawman after arresting eight murderers on his first patrol. Thomas regularly teamed up with two colleagues, marshals Chris Madsen and Bill Tilghman, forming a trio known as the Three Guardsmen. They ranged across Arkansas and Oklahoma Territory in their pursuit of wrongdoers and were a combination feared by those they were after. Between them, Thomas, Madsen and Tilghman arrested more than 300 suspects.

They were particularly vehement in chasing down two notorious families: the Daltons and the Doolins. Emmet Dalton, the only criminal who survived the ill-fated Coffeyville Bank Robbery, claimed the only reason his gang attempted the ambitious double heist was due to the pressure that Thomas' relentless pursuit was putting them under. Thomas also ended the reign of Bill Doolin, a prison escapee who killed a marshal during the Battle of Ingalls, shooting him in the chest with a shotgun after Doolin refused to surrender.

> "THOMAS QUICKLY EARNED A REPUTATION AS A FEARLESS LAWMAN AFTER ARRESTING EIGHT MURDERERS ON HIS FIRST PATROL"

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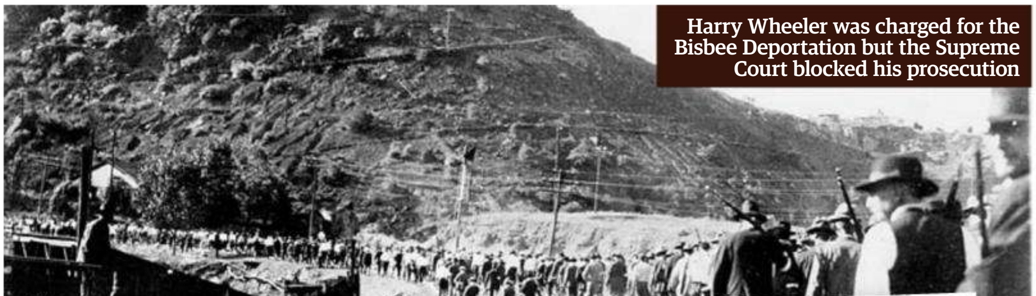
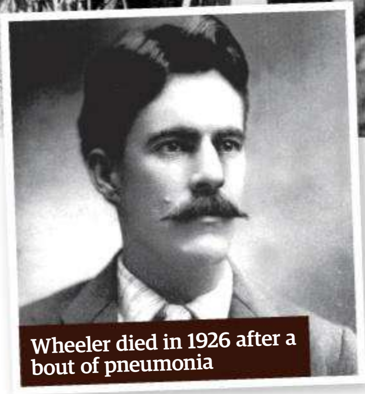


Harry Wheeler was charged for the Bisbee Deportation but the Supreme Court blocked his prosecution



Wheeler died in 1926 after a bout of pneumonia

HARRY WHEELER

BIRTH-DEATH 1875-1925
STATE/JURISDICTION ARIZONA
KILLS ON DUTY AT LEAST 2

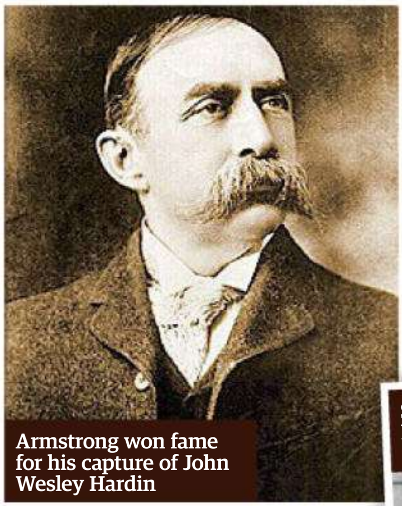
Wheeler, an Arizona Ranger, was walking past the Palace Saloon in Tucson in 1904 when a customer slipped outside and revealed there was a hold-up going on inside. "That's what I'm here for," Wheeler replied. He opened the door, gun already raised, and put two bullets in the masked robber. Wheeler killed a second man three years later when he intervened to stop one man shooting another in a quarrel over a lover. What started as a gunfight only ended when Wheeler hit his opponent over the head with a rock.

Wheeler's bravery led to him being appointed captain of the Arizona Rangers, but his career took a turn for the worse after he was elected sheriff of Cochise County in 1911. When miners went on strike in the town of Bisbee, Wheeler was an accomplice in a heavy-handed plan drawn up by Phelps Dodge, owner of the area's biggest mining company. Wheeler deputised 2,200 men and ordered them to round up the strikers using names and addresses provided by Dodge. Those who refused to return to work – more than 1,200 – were forced into cattle cars with no food and water and moved almost 200 miles to New Mexico, a journey that took 16 hours.

Plonked in the town of Tres Hermanas at 3 a.m. without money, the strikers were threatened with violence if they returned to Bisbee. Though Wheeler escaped punishment, his oppressive policing marred his distinguished record as a lawman.

JOHN ARMSTRONG

BIRTH-DEATH 1850-1913
STATE/JURISDICTION TEXAS
KILLS ON DUTY UNKNOWN



Armstrong won fame for his capture of John Wesley Hardin

Murderer John Wesley Hardin thought he had escaped justice when he boarded a train in Pensacola near the border between Florida and Alabama. Then he spotted a pistol pointing at him. "Texas, by God!" he exclaimed. The man holding the gun was John Barclay Armstrong, a Texas Ranger who had pursued Hardin across the American South. Armstrong shot and killed one of Hardin's accomplices who foolishly drew his own weapon and pistol-whipped Hardin as he struggled to pull his Colt from his belt. Not bad for a man who was using a walking stick after accidentally shooting himself in the leg.

The arrest of Hardin in 1877 marked the high point of Armstrong's fame. He had joined the Texas Rangers in 1875 and quickly earned the respect of his commanding officer, Leander McNelly. He was part of the posse of Rangers who crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico to recover stolen cattle and became involved in a pitched battle with Mexican bandits. After around 80 Mexicans were killed, including the commander of the local guard, the cattle were grudgingly returned.

'McNelly's Bulldog', as Armstrong came to be known, upheld the law in a volatile region. The Rangers were called in to keep the peace in DeWitt County as the Sutton and Taylor families battled in a long-standing feud that claimed 35 lives. He was also involved in the arrest of notorious rustler and outlaw John King Fisher and was part of the shootout that ended in the death of train robber Sam Bass.

JOHN HUGHES

BIRTH-DEATH 1855-1947
STATE/JURISDICTION TEXAS
KILLS ON DUTY UNKNOWN

Hughes always had a good sense of right and wrong. When his neighbour had several horses stolen, 31-year-old Hughes left his farm in a long pursuit of the thieves, killed two and brought the horses home. That drew the attention of the Texas Rangers, who recruited Hughes to join their patrols.

Serving mostly in the Frontier Battalion and responsible for keeping the peace on the Mexican border, Hughes gained a reputation as a man wrongdoers should not cross. After Frank Jones, the captain of Hughes' company, was killed in a shootout with the Olguin clan on an island in the middle of the Rio Grande, the Rangers were told they could not arrest anybody for it because the killing was deemed to have been committed in Mexico. That didn't stop Hughes, who was promoted to take over the dead man's command. The new captain tracked down 18 of the Olguins and, as per orders, none were arrested. Instead, all 18 were killed in shootouts or by extra-judicial hanging. Frontier justice was served.

Hughes spent most of his teenage years in Indian Territory, learning the ways of the Chocktaw, Osage and Comanche tribes. This knowledge served him in good stead in his later career, and Hughes was known for his excellent tracking skills and good relationships with Native American scouts. Perhaps that is why Hughes is often seen as the real-life model for the Lone Ranger – the most famous, albeit fictitious, of all Wild West lawmen.

Some have suggested that John Hughes was the inspiration for the fictional Lone Ranger

THE AMERICAN DESPERADO

BILLY THE KID

In a remarkably short life, Billy the Kid rose from obscurity to become one the most notorious gunslingers of all time

BY HARETH AL BUSTANI

At just 21 years old the outlaw dubbed 'Billy the Kid' had fit a lot of living into a short life. But after years on the run, on a cool spring day in 1881, it seemed the young gunslinger had reached the end of his rope. In just a matter of days he was due to hang. Sheriff Pat Garrett had done the impossible; subdued the seemingly invincible Kid. So, when the lawman heard early the next day that Billy had once again escaped, and killed two deputies in the process, he was furious. Before long, Billy the Kid would become a household name not just across America but the entire world.

Billy was born Henry McCarty in 1859. The son of two Irish immigrants, his father was absent from birth, while his mother Catherine lived a life of poverty in the slums of New York City before leaving for a fresh start in America's far-flung frontier – a journey that brought her to New Mexico's Silver City, famed for its promise of mining fortunes.

Straddling the border of Anglo-American civilisation, Native American lands and Latino communities, the region was a melting pot, home to a unique 'mestiza' culture, which the young Henry embraced with arms wide open. Rapidly becoming fluent in Spanish, he even happily donned sombreros and moccasins, hoping to impress the local Latina women.

Although Catherine's life looked like it was set to improve with her marriage to the miner William Antrim, in 1874 it was cut short by a long bout of tuberculosis. Unfortunately for young Henry, his stepfather had no interest in caring for him and sent him off to a local boarding house. Abandoned and grieving, Henry ended up charged with larceny after acting as a lookout while a fellow orphan robbed a Chinese laundry operator.

Rather than face justice, the 15-year-old Henry painstakingly shuffled his way up the jail's chimney and fled. While the *Silver City Herald* reported

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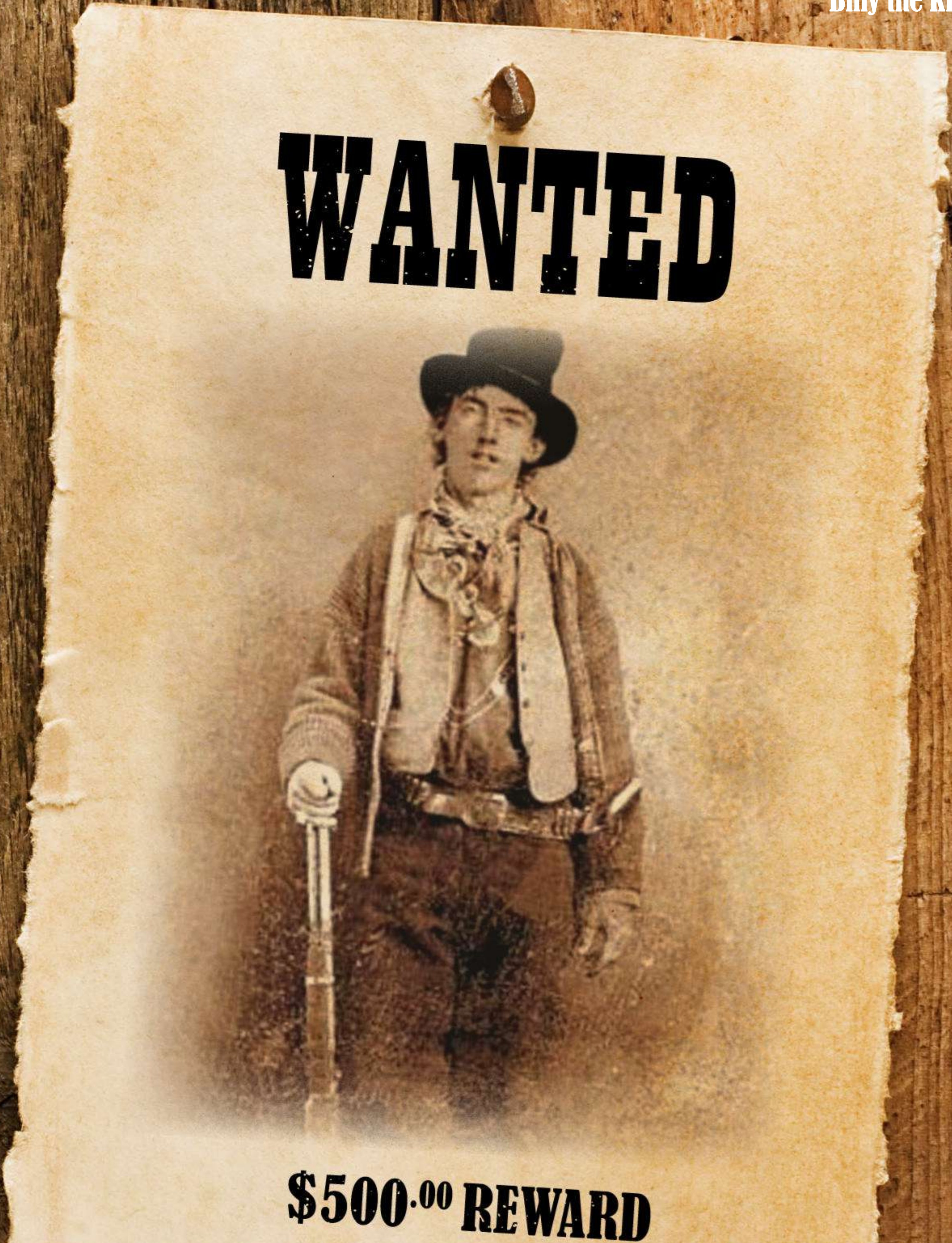
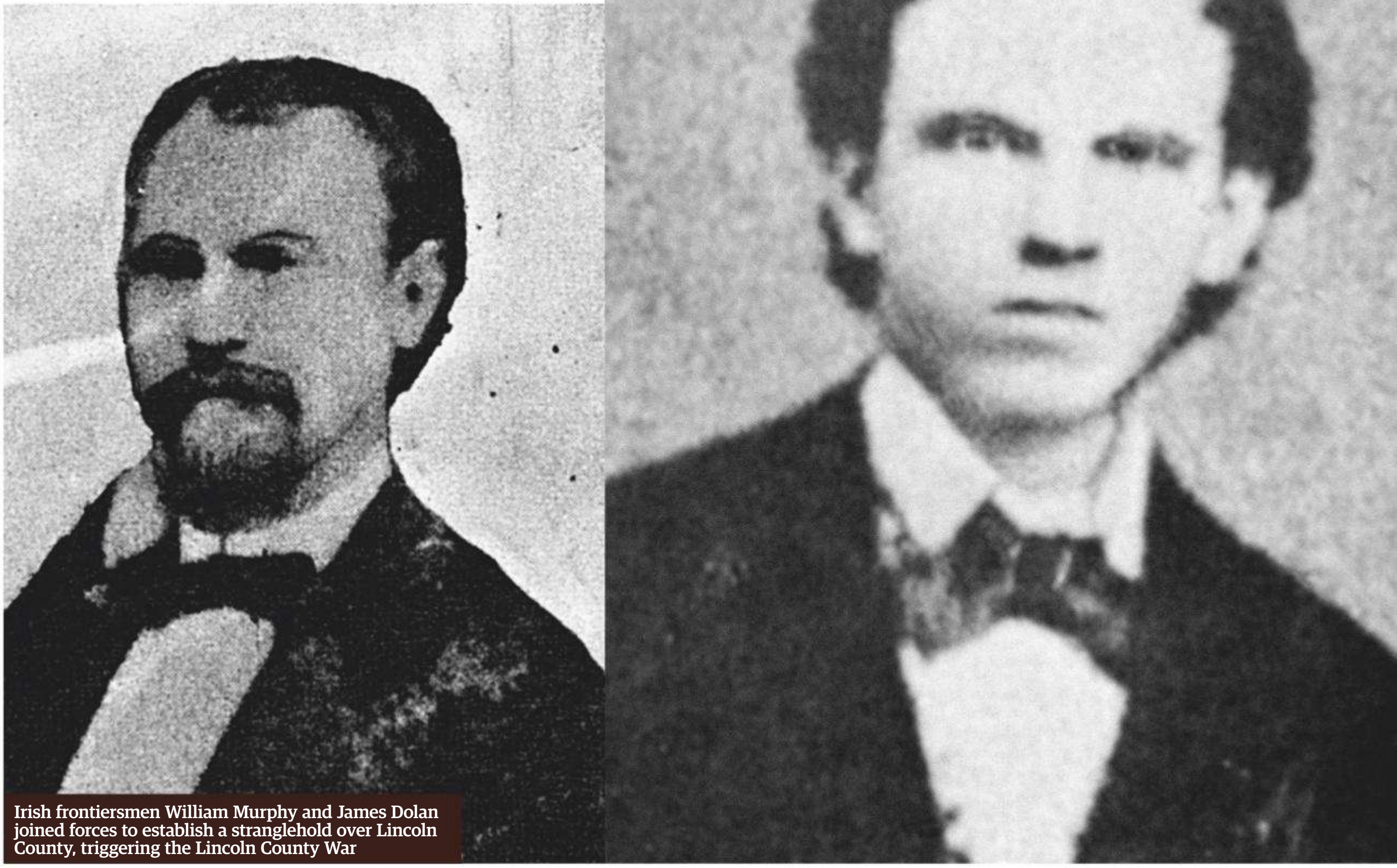

WANTED
$500.00 REWARD



Irish frontiersmen William Murphy and James Dolan joined forces to establish a stranglehold over Lincoln County, triggering the Lincoln County War

"'WINDY' CAHILL POUNCED ON THE ARROGANT TEEN AND SLAPPED HIM, AND THE KID RESPONDED BY WHIPPING OUT HIS GUN AND SHOOTING THE MAN"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

his daring escape, Henry crossed 500 miles of New Mexico desert to Chloride Flats, where his stepfather supposedly handed him a wad of money and told him to skip town.

Henry ended up taking odd jobs on local ranches near Arizona's Camp Grant, where he earned the nickname 'Kid', doled out to juvenile delinquents. Living up to the name, he took to gambling and fell in with a posse of hardened criminals led by the veteran John R. Mackie, who taught him how to shoot a six-shooter and steal horses. The Kid quickly landed himself in hot water when he was arrested alongside several of his comrades stealing a trio of horses belonging to some soldiers. However, the young daredevil managed to escape yet again, this time sneaking off while his guards were gallivanting at a local dance.

Returning to the Camp Grant area, the emboldened Kid's new habits soon caught up with him when a heated poker game spiralled out of control. After trading barbs, the blacksmith 'Windy' Cahill pounced on the arrogant teen and slapped him, and the Kid responded by whipping out his gun and shooting the man. As Cahill died in agony the Kid slipped into the night and fled to New Mexico, escalating from a wanted thief to a wanted murderer.

Adopting the pseudonym William H. Bonney, or 'Billy the Kid', he linked up with a network of southwestern bandits known as 'the Boys' south of Silver City. It was a tumultuous time for New Mexico – with the silver boom in full swing, an influx of white businessmen had flocked to the area, leaning on dodgy bankers and an unjust legal system to wrench land away from Hispanic ranchers and develop large portfolios of property. With whopping government contracts for their cattle, Irish immigrants Lawrence Murphy and James Dolan established a monopoly over Lincoln County, ruling their own virtual fiefdom from their headquarters, 'the House'.

Their closest rival was rising star John Tunstall, a young Englishman who'd moved there in the hopes of building his own cattle empire. Brilliant beyond his years, Tunstall knew talent when he saw it; when Billy was caught rustling some of his horses, instead of pressing charges the 25 year old hired him as a bodyguard. Tunstall treated his hired gunslingers with respect, earning their loyalty and trust. However, on a fateful day, as Tunstall was transporting nine of his horses with the Kid and four bodyguards, he was confronted by some of the House's men, who ordered their livestock seized on behalf of Sheriff Brady. When Tunstall approached them they gunned him down. While this would have sent most outlaws running, Tunstall's boys were out for blood. This was personal.

Tunstall's foreman, Dick Brewer, amazingly convinced Justice of the Peace John Wilson to appoint him a special constable, with the power to make arrests. Backed by the law, Brewer banded together his bunch of outlaws to form 'the Regulators', a deputised gang devoted to avenging

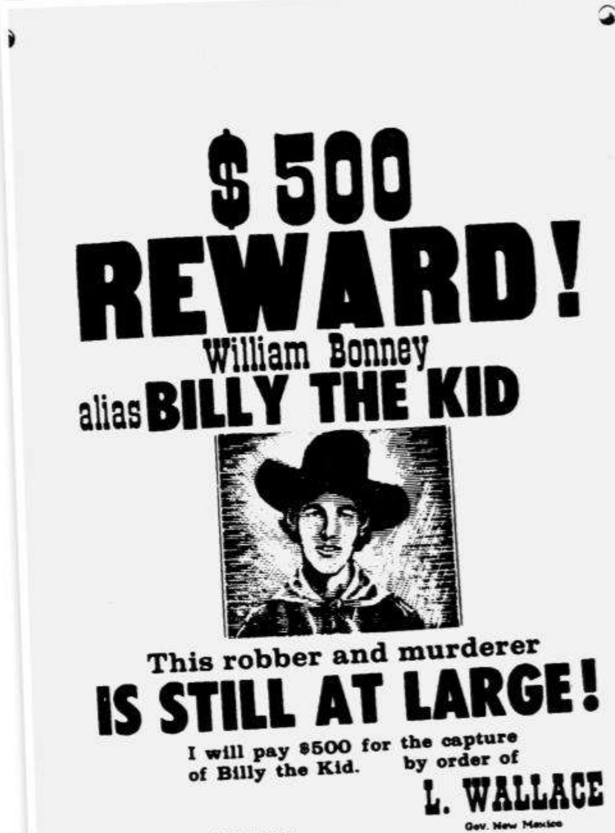
After their boss was killed by 'the House', Billy's foreman Dick Brewer was appointed a special constable, and their posse deputised, giving rise to the Regulators

the death of their boss. Each member was paid a handsome salary of $4 a day, with a licence to kill.

Soon after, they captured three members of Dolan's gang and killed them en route to Lincoln jail. As the gang war spun out of control, New Mexico's governor travelled to Lincoln personally to cancel Wilson's appointment. Undeterred, the Kid and five of his fellow cowboys hid in a corral behind a ten-foot wall and lay in wait for Sheriff Brady, mercilessly shooting him dead as he walked past. Although the Kid was shot in the thigh he hobbled off to fight another day.

Three days later, Dolan's man 'Buckshot' Roberts tracked down the Regulators, sparking off a gruelling firefight in which he killed Dick Brewer before losing his own life. As the fighting continued to escalate for three months, although scores of people were killed on both sides, tellingly, only the Regulators were indicted. The conflict reached a climax with the Five-Day War, where 60 Regulators had a shootout against James Dolan, Sheriff George Peppin and 40 of their associates.

After five days of furious fighting, troops of the U.S. Army arrived with a Gatling gun, 2,000 rounds of ammunition and a 12-pound mountain howitzer. Despite promising to stay neutral, they blasted their cannons at the Regulators and threatened to blow them away if they retaliated. Most of the Regulators fled in fear, with only 13 staying put. When Peppin set the house ablaze Billy ran, hoping to draw his besiegers' attention. He failed, and in the ensuing firefight most of the remaining Regulators were shot.



$ 500

REWARD!

William Bonney

alias BILLY THE KID

This robber and murderer

IS STILL AT LARGE!

I will pay $500 for the capture of Billy the Kid.

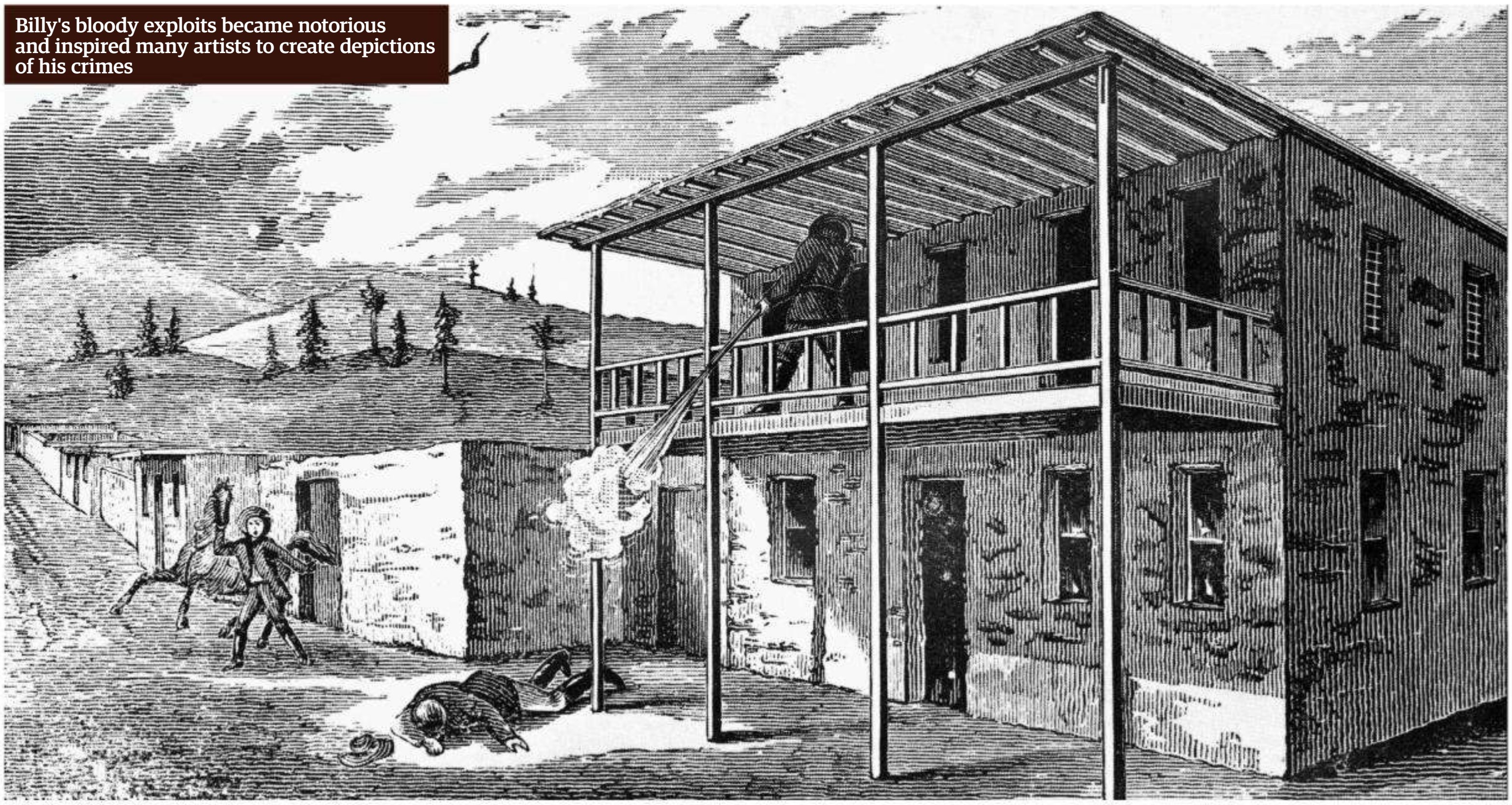
by order of

L. WALLACE

Gov. New Mexico

May 4th,1881, Santa Fe,N. Mexico

In December 1880, despite Billy's pleas of innocence, Governor Wallace offered $500 for his capture after the killing of blacksmith Jim Carlyle



Billy's bloody exploits became notorious and inspired many artists to create depictions of his crimes

© Alamy

Keen to bring an end to the chaos, the president himself appointed a new governor, who offered amnesty to everyone except those under indictment. Wanted for the deaths of Brady and Roberts, Billy was ineligible. However, on the one-year anniversary of his boss' death, in a meeting that almost spilled into violence, he and his posse met with Dolan, shook hands and agreed to a ceasefire.

Following the truce, Billy wrote to Governor Wallace: "I have no wish to fight any more. Indeed I have not raised an arm since your proclamation. As to my character, I refer to any of the citizens, for the majority of them are my friends and have been helping me all they could." Billy was a popular figure among the locals, especially poor and oppressed Mexican-Americans, who were always more than happy to hide and assist him. Wallace replied, "I have the authority to exempt you from prosecution, if you will testify to what you know."

After the Kid's testimony before a grand jury, true to his word, Wallace declared, "I will let you go scot-free with a pardon in your pockets for all your misdeeds." Although Dolan and Campbell were indicted for murder, with 200 more charges raised against 50 men, most of the House members leveraged their corrupt contacts to walk away with an amnesty. When the military officer who supported the House was acquitted, Billy skipped town for Las Vegas, where he is said to have dined with the legendary Missouri outlaw Jesse James.

However, he couldn't stay out of trouble for long; once again, he got into a row with a local drunk at a saloon and shot him dead. Chased down by a band of cowboys, the Kid and his gang engaged in a brutal firefight during which the well-loved blacksmith, Jim Carlyle, who'd gone in to negotiate, was killed. Writing about the incident, the *Las Vegas Gazette* referred to the outlaw 'Billy the Kid' for the first time. Billy's exploits would soon find a regular home inside the local and national papers, cementing his legacy as one of the Wild West's deadliest outlaws.

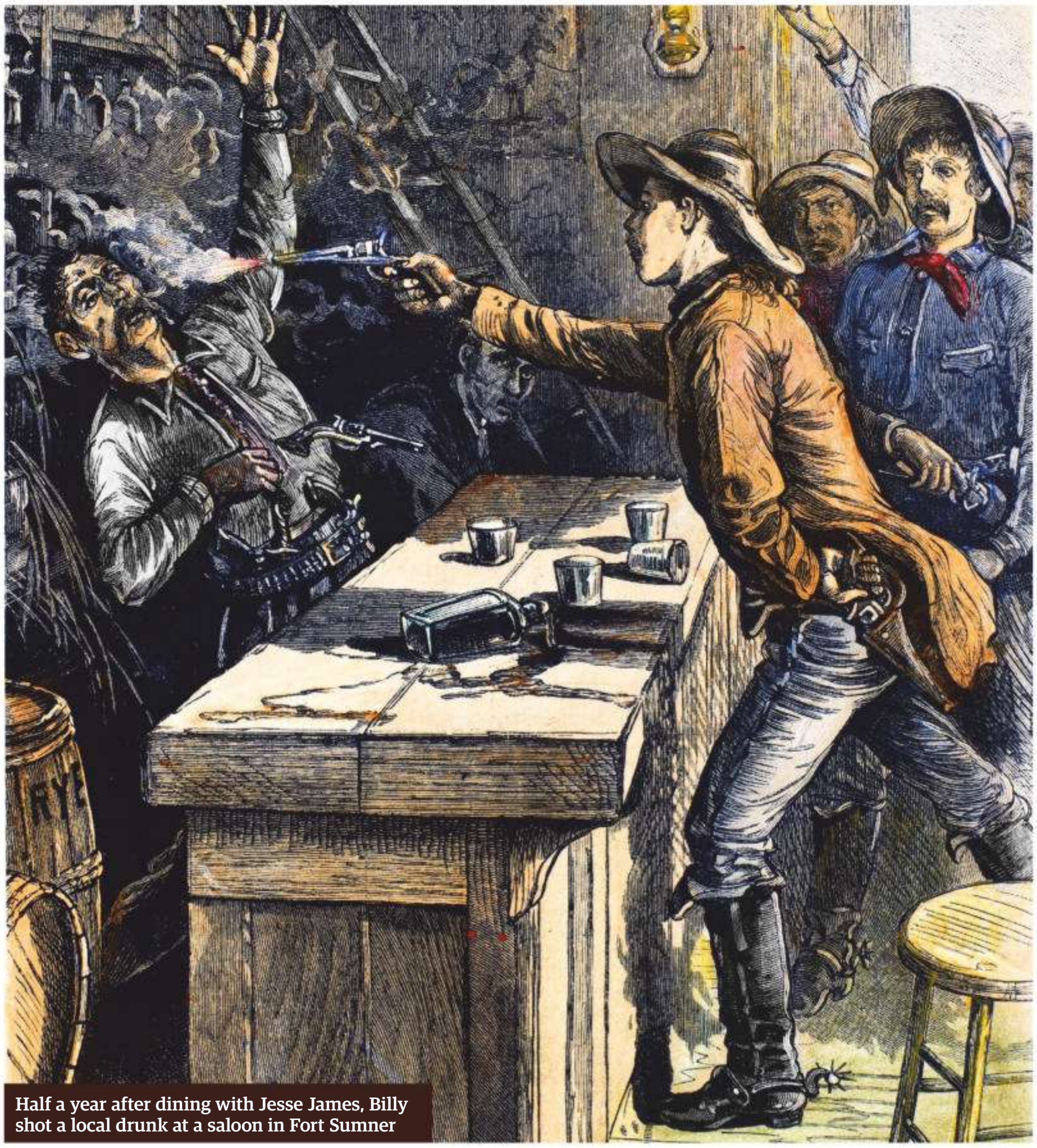
Billy once again wrote to Governor Wallace, denying that either he or anyone from his gang shot Carlyle, but this time the governor was not in a forgiving mood. Three days later, Wallace posted a wanted notice in the New Mexico newspapers offering a reward of $500 for "the delivery of Bonney alias 'The Kid' to the Sheriff of Lincoln County". Less than a week later the Regulators were ambushed by Sheriff Pat Garrett, who chased them down to a single-room stone house.

After a lengthy back and forth, Billy and his boys finally surrendered, tempted out of hiding by wafts of the bacon and beans Garrett's men were cooking outside. When he was interviewed in jail by the *Las Vegas Gazette*, the Kid remarked, "What's the use of looking on the gloomy side of everything? The laugh's on me this time."

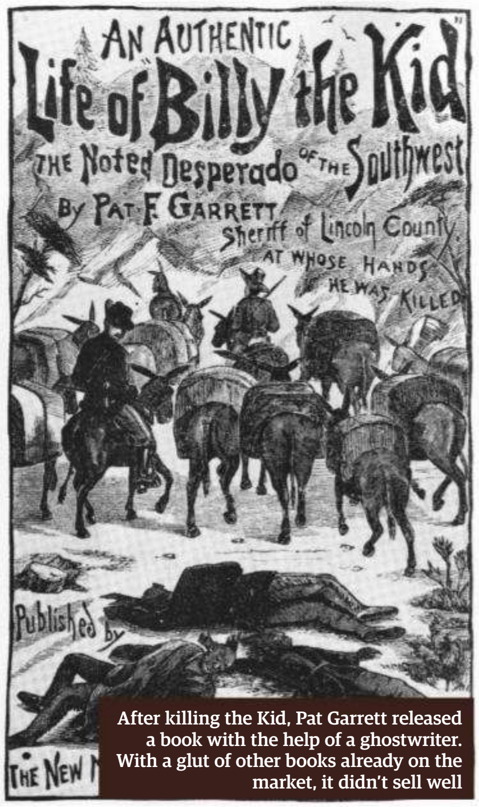
In a two-day court case, Billy was found guilty for the murder of Sheriff Brady and sentenced to hang on 13 May – the only man convicted for any crimes committed during the Lincoln County War. As myth has it, when the judge scowled that Billy would hang until he was "dead, dead, dead", the Kid defiantly spat back, "And you can go to hell, hell, hell."

Counting down the days to his execution, Billy asked one of his guards to escort him to the toilet. On the way, he defiantly stole the guard's gun and shot him with it before grabbing a ten-gauge shotgun from Garrett's office and killing the deputies stationed outside. Swiftly, he smashed the shackles from his legs with a pickaxe and rode off on a stolen horse. The next day, word of his daring escape began spreading across not just America but the entire world.

Furious and humiliated, Garrett rushed over to the home of Billy's lover, Paulita Maxwell, who



Half a year after dining with Jesse James, Billy shot a local drunk at a saloon in Fort Sumner



AN AUTHENTIC
Life of "Billy the Kid"
THE Noted Desperado OF THE Southwest
BY PAT. F. GARRETT,
Sheriff of Lincoln County,
AT WHOSE HANDS
HE WAS KILLED
Published by
THE New

After killing the Kid, Pat Garrett released a book with the help of a ghostwriter. With a glut of other books already on the market, it didn't sell well was rumoured to be pregnant with his child, and stationed two deputies on the porch. Near midnight, Billy, who'd been hiding out in a nearby house, arrived with a butcher's knife in his hand, hoping to take some beef from the Maxwells. Not only did the deputies not recognise Billy without his hat or shoes on, but when one of them jumped to his feet, his spurs got caught on the wooden floorboards, giving Billy a good chuckle as he strolled inside.

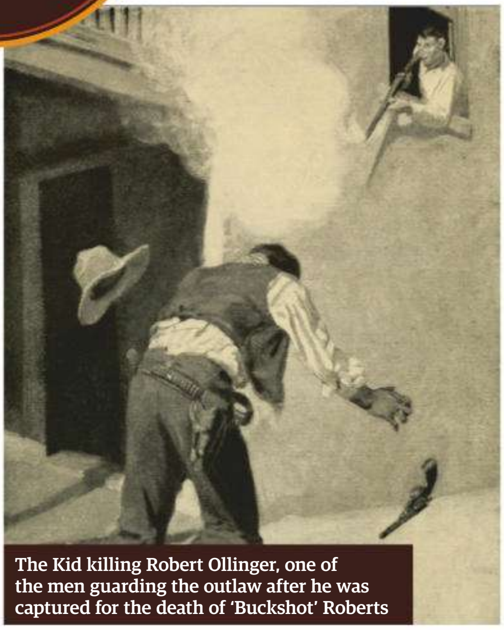
By this time, Garrett had snuck into Paulita's brother Pete's room and asked him where Billy was. Pete said he didn't know. Suddenly, a shadowy figure burst into the room whose likeness Garrett couldn't make out. Garrett waited as the silhouette drew closer and asked Pete who the men outside were. Suddenly, Pete whispered to Garrett, “That's him” Billy recoiled in shock, frantically asking in Spanish, “Who's that? Who goes there?” but just as he raised his self-cocking pistol Garrett fired two fatal shots.

The next afternoon, Billy's body was carried atop a wagon to Fort Sumner cemetery. Trailed by a procession of mourners, the outlaw was buried alongside two of his former gang members. News of his death raced across the world, with even the *Times of London* running an obituary for him, alongside hundreds of other newspapers.

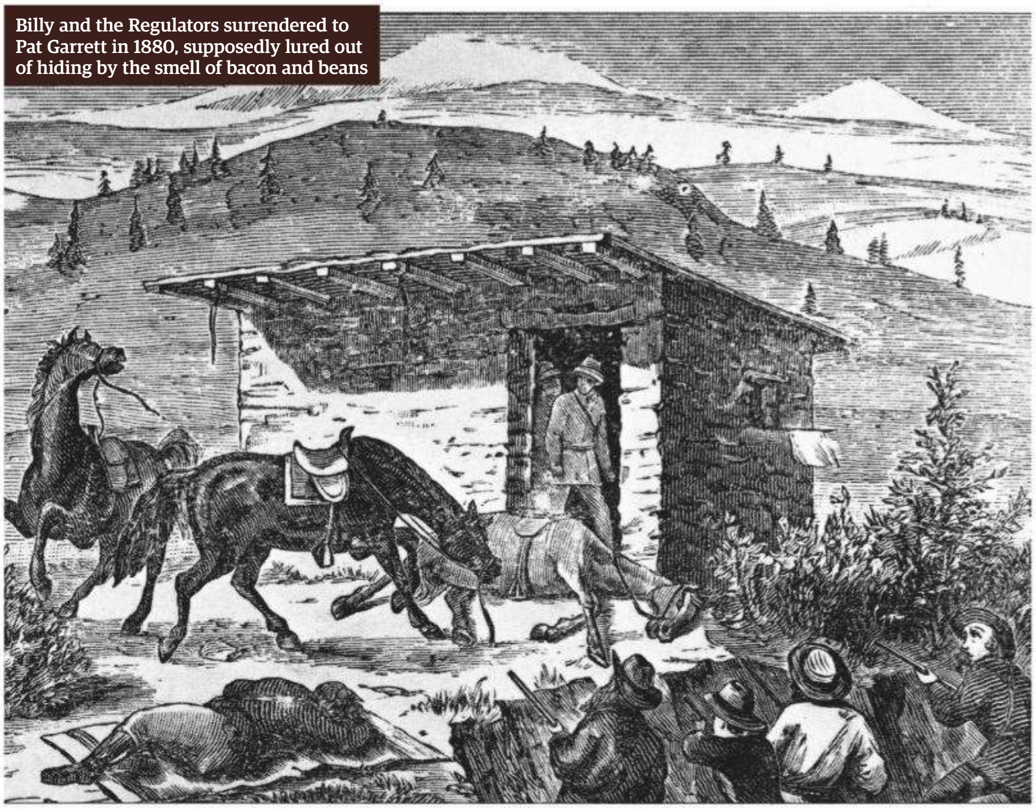
Garrett later wrote, “It will never be known whether the Kid recognised me or not. If he did, it was the first time, during all his life of peril that he ever lost his presence of mind, or failed to shoot first and hesitate afterwards.” But did the Kid really die inside his lover's home?

In the 141 years since his supposed demise numerous accounts have claimed that Garrett staged the Kid's demise in order to help him evade the law, and several men have claimed to be the infamous outlaw. Maybe, just maybe, the Kid in fact lived to be an old dog.

In a life of crime, Billy the Kid never robbed a train or held up a bank. His business was cattle rustling



The Kid killing Robert Ollinger, one of the men guarding the outlaw after he was captured for the death of ‘Buckshot’ Roberts



Billy and the Regulators surrendered to Pat Garrett in 1880, supposedly lured out of hiding by the smell of bacon and beans

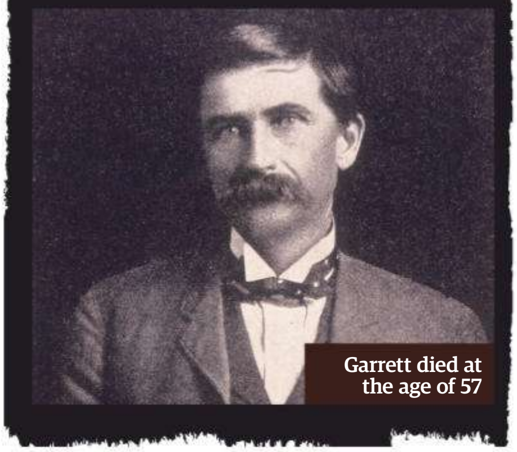
THE LIFE OF PAT GARRETT

After killing the Kid in spectacular fashion, Pat Garrett drifted through a life mired in violence and strife

Born in Chambers County, Alabama, in 1850, Pat Garrett received an elementary education in Louisiana, before leaving home at 18 years old to become a buffalo hunter in Texas. In 1877, with the industry in decline and his camp wrecked by Comanches, he packed up for Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Although his first wife, Juanita Gutiérrez died just months after their wedding, his second marriage, to Juanita's sister Apolinaria, was fruitful, resulting in nine children.

In 1880, having been elected sheriff of Lincoln County, Garrett immediately set his sights on the evasive outlaw, Billy the Kid. After slaying the Kid Garrett published the *Authentic Life of Billy the Kid* with ghostwriter Marshall Ashmun Upson but found the market already oversaturated. Two years later, after a failed bid to become state senator, and a short stint as a Texas Ranger, he invested in an irrigation company. When the firm went bust, Garrett went back to what he did best, being appointed Dona Ana country sherriff tasked with tracking down the men responsible for the disappearance of a former Texas state senator and his eight-year-old son. Following a two-year investigation, Garrett hauled in a trio of ranchers, but they were later acquitted because no bodies could be found.

After serving as a customs collector in El Paso, Garrett retired to his New Mexico ranch, where he came into conflict with Wayne Brazel, a cowboy who'd leased land from Garret's son to rear cattle, only to bring in a massive herd of unsolicited goats. On 29 February 1908, Brazel shot Garrett in the back of the head, bringing a tumultuous end to a tumultuous life. Brazel later walked free, arguing that he'd shot Garrett in self-defence.



Garrett died at the age of 57

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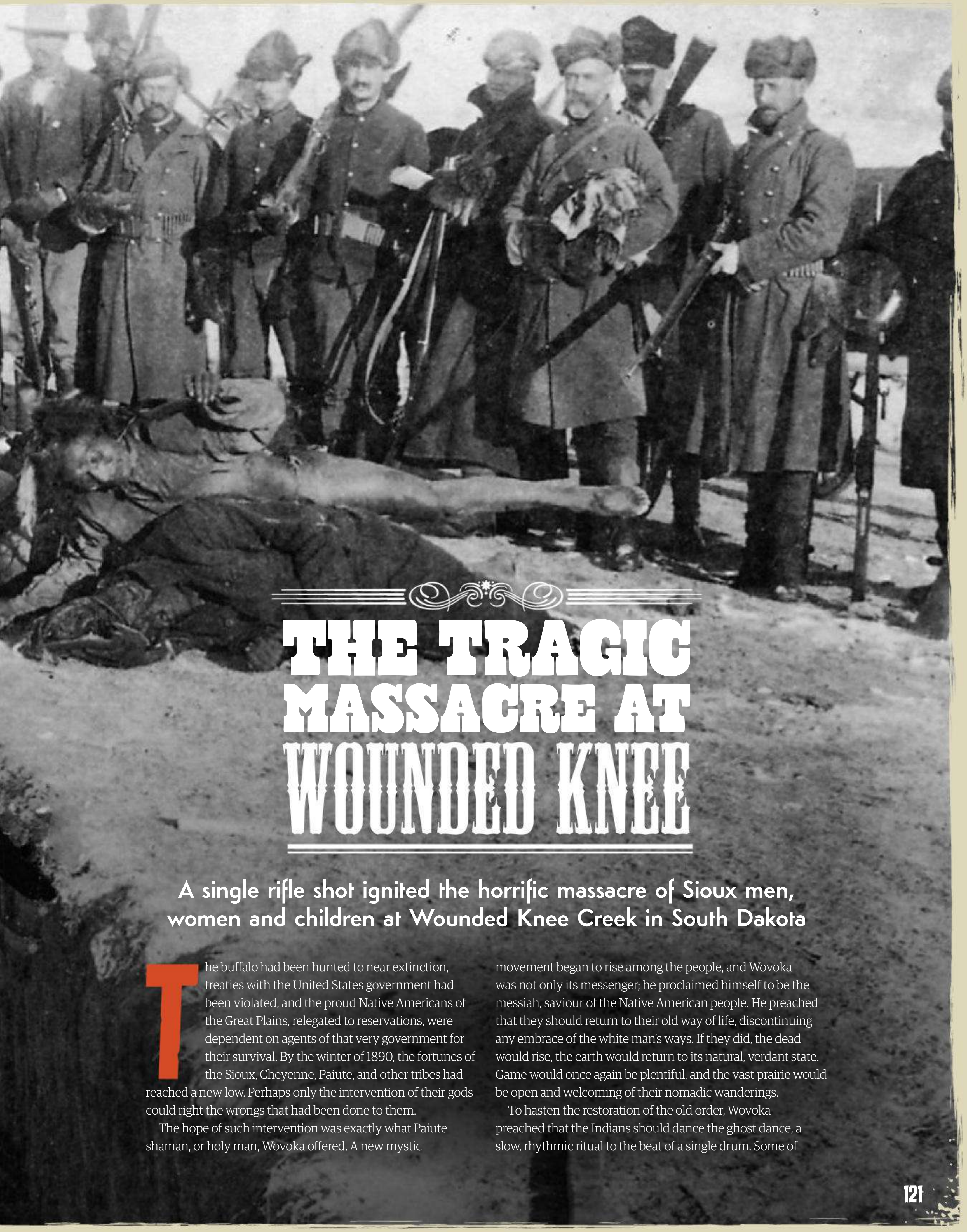


THE TRAGIC MASSACRE AT WOUNDED KNEE

A single rifle shot ignited the horrific massacre of Sioux men, women and children at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota

The buffalo had been hunted to near extinction, treaties with the United States government had been violated, and the proud Native Americans of the Great Plains, relegated to reservations, were dependent on agents of that very government for their survival. By the winter of 1890, the fortunes of the Sioux, Cheyenne, Paiute, and other tribes had reached a new low. Perhaps only the intervention of their gods could right the wrongs that had been done to them.

The hope of such intervention was exactly what Paiute shaman, or holy man, Wovoka offered. A new mystic movement began to rise among the people, and Wovoka was not only its messenger; he proclaimed himself to be the messiah, saviour of the Native American people. He preached that they should return to their old way of life, discontinuing any embrace of the white man's ways. If they did, the dead would rise, the earth would return to its natural, verdant state. Game would once again be plentiful, and the vast prairie would be open and welcoming of their nomadic wanderings.

To hasten the restoration of the old order, Wovoka preached that the Indians should dance the ghost dance, a slow, rhythmic ritual to the beat of a single drum. Some of the dancers donned shirts that bore images of the buffalo and other sacred wildlife. These shirts, it was believed, were impervious to bullets fired from the white man's rifles.

Wovoka's followers grew in number and spread from Paiute villages to neighbouring tribes. In the autumn of 1890, the Lakota Sioux sent envoys to the shaman to learn the ghost dance. They brought the rite back to the Sioux settlements.

The mysticism of the ghost dance and the revival of Indian fervour alarmed the white settlers, including the agents of the federal government who were responsible for Indian affairs. At the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, the local agent telegraphed his concerns to Washington, D.C., "Indians are dancing in the snow and are wild and crazy," he warned. "We need protection, and we need it now. The leaders should be arrested and confined at some military post until the matter is quieted, and this should be done now."

While every agent or officer of the U.S. Army in Indian territory did not share the same concern, measures were taken to quell the prospects of an uprising and to ensure the safety of the settlers of the Plains. The authorities believed that Sitting Bull, a revered Sioux holy man of the Hunkpapa band who had led warriors in the victory over Lieutenant Colonel George Custer and the 7th Cavalry Regiment at Little Bighorn years earlier, might lend his support to the burgeoning ghost dance phenomenon and moved to take him into custody.

It was initially hoped that William 'Buffalo Bill' Cody might persuade Sitting Bull to surrender peacefully. However, Indian Agent James McLaughlin insisted that Native American police make the arrest. On 15 December 1890, about 40 Native American officers went to Sitting Bull's home at Standing Rock Reservation. A crowd gathered to demonstrate against the arrest, and a shot rang out as Sitting Bull tried to pull away from one of the arresting officers, who was killed instantly. More shots were fired, and Sitting Bull ended up being mortally wounded by police officers Bull Head and Red Tomahawk.

The death of Sitting Bull stirred fear among the Sioux at Standing Rock, and about 200 fled toward the Cheyenne River Reservation, where Chief Spotted Elk, also known as Big Foot, was located with his Miniconjou band. On 23 December, Spotted Elk and approximately 350 Miniconjou and Hunkpapa set out for the Pine Ridge Reservation, where the great chief Red Cloud might offer sanctuary and leadership during this turbulent period.

As they made their way slowly toward Pine Ridge, Spotted Elk's small company, which probably included about 200 women and children, was intercepted near Porcupine Butte on 28 December by a detachment of the 7th Cavalry under Major Samuel Whitside. The cavalrymen diverted the Sioux to the banks of Wounded Knee Creek about five miles to the west, where they were told to make camp. That evening, Colonel James Forsyth, commander of the 7th Cavalry, arrived with the remainder of the regiment.

Approximately 500 troopers surrounded the Indians on the morning of the 29th, and Forsyth ordered the soldiers to confiscate their weapons and move them toward trains to take them out of an area that had been designated a zone of military operations. A search of the camp turned up 38 rifles, but it was clear that some of the Sioux were reluctant to part with their guns. While the elderly Spotted Elk, already seriously ill with pneumonia, and a few other Sioux negotiated with Forsyth, a shot was heard in the camp. Violence erupted.

Eyewitness accounts vary, but one explanation of the unfolding tragedy asserts that a deaf Sioux brave named Black Coyote refused to part with his rifle, either because he could not understand the orders he was given or because he had paid a large sum of money for it. As Black Coyote wrestled with soldiers, another Sioux, Yellow Bird, incited the gathering to resist. At least one ghost dancer began performing the ritual, tossing dirt into the air, and the soldiers probably considered the act a provocation.

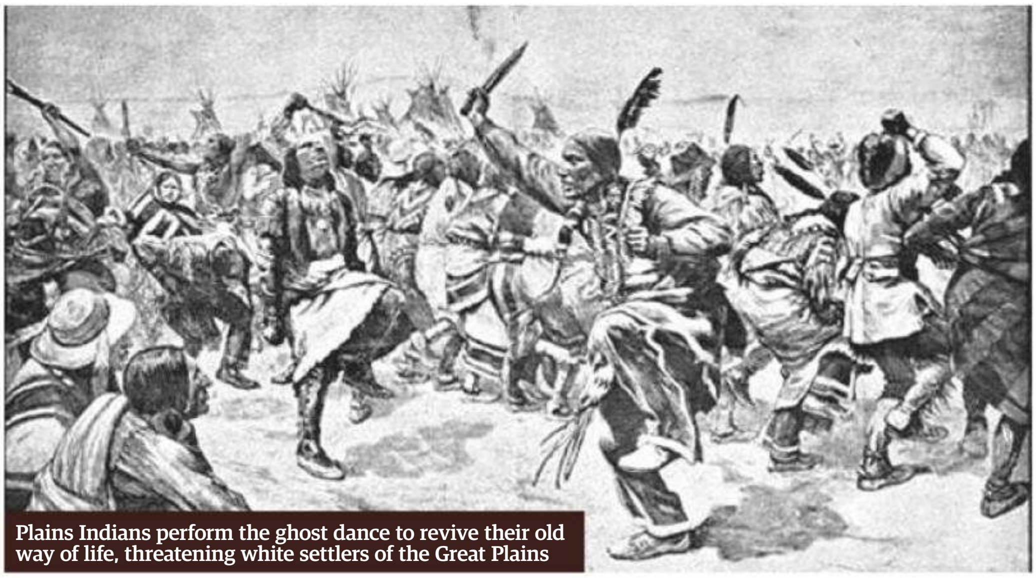
In the midst of Black Coyote's scuffle with the soldiers, it is believed by many that his rifle discharged. At that moment, some witnesses attested that at least five Sioux braves pulled rifles from beneath blankets and fired at 7th Cavalry troopers. The response was swift. The soldiers started firing into the surrounded Sioux, and four 42mm Model 1875 Hotchkiss mountain guns began blasting away. More braves drew weapons while their women and children fled toward a nearby ravine.

Three survivors of the massacre at Wounded Knee pose proudly for a photographer sometime after the event

Wounded Knee is a U.S. National Historic Landmark and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966

Colonel James Forsyth and Major Samuel Whitside of the 7th Cavalry were veterans of the American Civil War

The body of Sioux leader Spotted Elk lies frozen in the snow after he was killed during the massacre at Wounded Knee



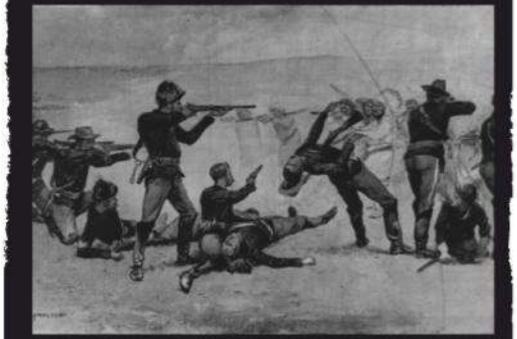
Plains Indians perform the ghost dance to revive their old way of life, threatening white settlers of the Great Plains

Medals for massacre?

More than a century after the massacre at Wounded Knee, controversy continues to swirl around the horrific encounter. Among the points of perennial contention is the awarding of 20 Congressional Medals of Honor to U.S. soldiers who participated in the massacre or the campaign that led to it.

During the years that followed Wounded Knee, numerous soldiers received the medals for gallantry during the so-called 'battle.' However, time has yielded conclusions that dispute the nature of the event to such a degree that the term is hardly descriptive of the manner in which as many as 300 Sioux – more than 60 of them women and children – died. One of the original citations commends a soldier for "bravery displayed while shooting hostile Indians" despite the fact that his own commanding officer recalled that the trooper in question did actually "deliberately aim at and hit two Indians who had run into the ravine".

The number of Medals of Honor awarded for Wounded Knee invites scrutiny. Some researchers conclude that the criteria for the award at the time were somewhat different from those of later conflicts. Regardless, as recently as 2001, Native American organisations have criticised the awards and called upon the U.S. Government to rescind them.



Troopers of the 7th Cavalry open fire as they surround Spotted Elk's Sioux followers early during the Wounded Knee Massacre

Within seconds, officers lost control of their men, and the indiscriminate shooting continued. Soldiers on horseback chased Indians who ran from the melee, while many were shot where they stood amid the deadly crossfire.

Philip Wells, a U.S Army scout of mixed blood, witnessed the unfolding massacre and recalled the violence. "I heard someone on my left exclaim, 'Look out! Look out!' I saw five or six young warriors cast off their blankets and pull guns out from under them and brandish them in the air. One of the warriors shot into the soldiers, who were ordered to fire into the Indians."

Captain George D. Wallace, commanding Troop K, 7th Cavalry, was killed early in the fight. "A bullet, striking him in the forehead, plowed away the top of his head," remembered Wells.

General Nelson A. Miles, commander of the Military Division of the Missouri, advanced the story of Black Coyote and the accidental rifle shot but added, "a large number of women and children who tried to escape by running and scattering over the prairie were hunted down and killed".

While Wells' account is that of an eyewitness, it is likely that there was culpability on both sides. The tension was high, and in the heat of the confrontation an accidental discharge of a weapon does appear to be the likeliest catalyst. Certainly, it is questionable whether the Sioux, surrounded, outgunned, and with many women and children, would have initiated a battle.

When the shooting ended, at least 150 Sioux men, women, and children, including Spotted Elk, had been killed. Some estimates of Sioux dead run as high as 300. Fifty-one Native Americans were wounded, and at least seven of these later died. Twenty-five soldiers were killed, some probably by friendly fire.

After the encounter at Wounded Knee, first referred to as a battle and only later as a massacre, a great blizzard swept the Plains. When three days of bad weather subsided, civilian burial parties gathered the bodies of the dead Sioux and interred them in a mass grave.

The massacre effectively ended the Ghost Dance movement and is considered to mark the end of the bloody wars between the United States and the Native Americans of the Great Plains.

Today, Indian activists point to Wounded Knee as a prime example of the brutality with which the U.S. Government suppressed Native Americans. In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement chose Wounded Knee as the symbolic site for a 71-day occupation to call attention to their plight. A century after the massacre, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution expressing "deep regret" for the killings.

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BLACK BART
THE GENTLEMAN
BANDIT

BY MICHAEL E. HASKEW

Nemesis of the Wells Fargo stagecoaches, Black Bart waxed poetic at the point of a shotgun

When the driver spotted the gun barrels, he eased the team of horses to a stop. From the side of the road, a gentleman in a black derby hat, long duster coat and wearing a flour sack with two eyes cut for a mask stepped out and politely asked for the strong box to be thrown to the ground. When the box was emptied, the bandit slipped away, but the barrels still protruded from the bush.

Moments later, the stagecoach driver dismounted, retrieved the empty strong box and then looked more closely, discovering that the gun barrels were merely sticks tied to branches. The gentlemanly robber known as Black Bart had struck again.

From 1875 to 1883, Black Bart is believed to have carried out no fewer than 28 robberies of Wells Fargo stagecoaches in northern California and southern Oregon. No one was ever injured. Women were never relieved of personal belongings. He used no foul language. And on at least two occasions he was known to have left lines of poetry as calling cards.

The two examples of Black Bart's verse known to exist today were, according to historians, remnants of robberies that occurred between the gold mining towns of Point Arena and Duncans Mills, California, on 3 August 1877, and Quincy and Oroville, California, on 25 July 1878. They ran thusly: "I've labored long and hard for bread,/For honor, and for riches/But on my corns too long you've tread,/You fine-haired sons of bitches." And then, "Here I lay me down to sleep/To wait the coming morrow,/Perhaps success, perhaps defeat,/And everlasting sorrow./Let come what will,/I'll try it on,/My condition can't be worse;/And if there's money in that box/'Tis munny in my purse."

Black Bart, the real man and whatever Wild West embellishment there may be, was a shadowy figure, and the story of his life is one of contradiction, theory and conjecture. According to some, he was born in England around 1829, and his family emigrated to America when he was two years old. Others relate that he was born in New York about the same time. His name was Charles E. Boles, and he was said to have first ventured west during the Gold Rush, returned without finding his fortune, married, and settled in Illinois. His probable service in the American Civil War was honourable, being seriously wounded but rising from enlisted to officer rank.

In 1867, Boles ventured west once again, prospecting in the open country of Idaho and Montana. A letter to his wife dated 1871 relates some difficulty with Wells Fargo agents and a desire to exact a measure of revenge. Shortly thereafter, he apparently began making good on the vendetta. Eyewitnesses remember Black Bart as always being on foot, and the story goes that he was afraid of horses. His first robbery took place in 1875 near the mining town of Copperopolis, California, and netted him $160. Encouraged by that success, his criminal pace quickened.

Often brandishing a shotgun and shouting a threat to blow the head off anyone who resisted, Black Bart is believed to have relieved Wells Fargo of roughly $415,000 in gold during his career (historians differ as to its length – as few as eight years or as many as 15). It is known, though, that Black Bart got the attention of the Wells Fargo private police force, and they sought their man relentlessly, offering a $1,000 reward for information leading to his apprehension.

Charles Boles and his Black Bart alter ego are known to have troubled Wells Fargo for the last time on 3 November 1883, in Calaveras County, California. Bart was wounded in the hand and dropped incriminating evidence as he fled lawmen.

This still from the 1948 film *Black Bart* depicts a robbery

Detectives picked up his trail, tracing a handkerchief with the laundry mark "F.X.O.7." to Bush Street in San Francisco. From there, they learned that it belonged to a gentleman who worked as a mining engineer and made frequent business trips that coincided with scheduled Wells Fargo stagecoach runs.

Boles was arrested but denied being the now famous Black Bart. Later, though, he admitted to responsibility for some of the early crimes. Interestingly, Wells Fargo pressed charges on only a single robbery. Boles' conduct during the trial was exemplary, making the job of the jury quite difficult. However, he was convicted and sentenced to six years in prison at San Quentin.

Charles Boles, now known to the world as Black Bart, was released in January 1888, after serving only four years. Of course, his parole was attributed to "good behaviour". When reporters asked if his future

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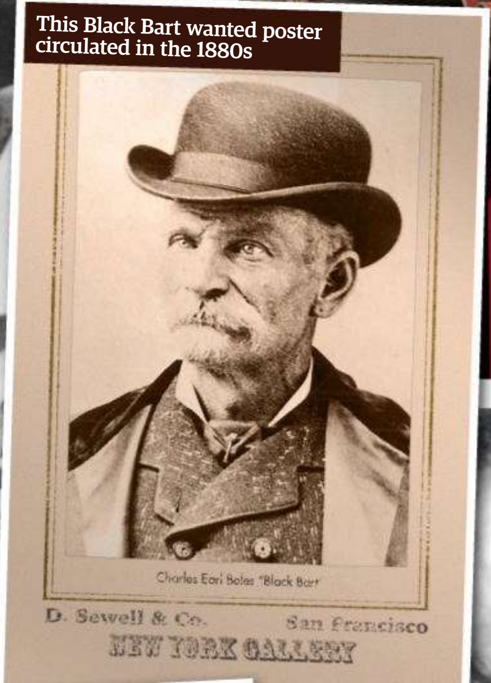
Black Bart was familiar with Wells Fargo stagecoaches such as this

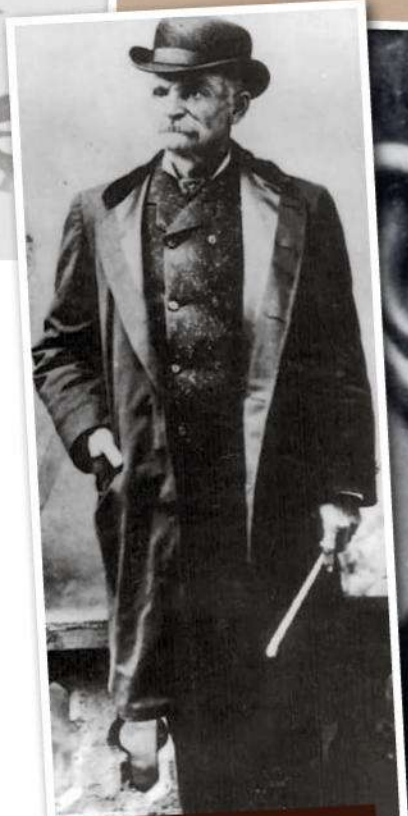
This Black Bart wanted poster circulated in the 1880s


Charles Earl Boles "Black Bart"
D. Sewell & Co.
San Francisco
NEW YORK GALLERY

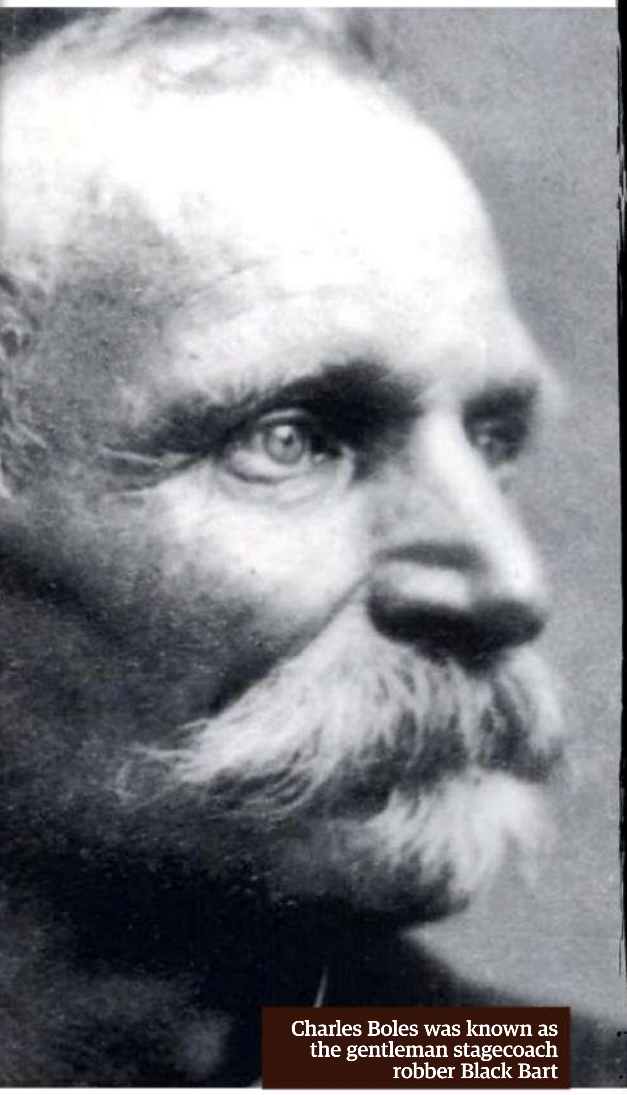
plans included any more stagecoach robberies, Boles said wryly, "No gentlemen. I'm through with crime."

From there, Black Bart's trail grows cold. He never saw his wife again but did write to her on few occasions. Theories concerning where he spent his last years abound. Some believed he emigrated to Japan. Others said he settled in northern California and worked as a pharmacist or lived in New York City. The date of his death is uncertain but thought to be sometime in 1917.

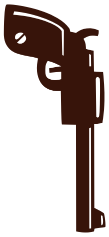
The legendary Black Bart, gentleman poet and bandit, may well have settled his personal score with Wells Fargo and faded into obscurity just as he intended.



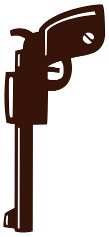
Charles Boles, a.k.a. Black Bart, was an impeccable dresser



Charles Boles was known as the gentleman stagecoach robber Black Bart



BUTCH CASSIDY



His exploits with the Wild Bunch captured the imagination of the public, and even his death became the stuff of legends. Is Butch Cassidy the most infamous figure of the Wild West?

Say the name Butch Cassidy and it's hard to not immediately think of the Sundance Kid and the 1969 film. Its story of two wise-cracking buddies is so ingrained in culture as to be taken as fact. But it isn't fact. For a start, Cassidy and Sundance were not best friends. They did flee to Argentina together, but that was more opportunity than choice. But even if the film didn't nail it in terms of accuracy, that is not to say that Butch Cassidy's life wasn't full of thrills, adventure and intrigue.

Born Robert Leroy Parker on 13 April 1866 in Utah, Cassidy's parents were staunch Mormons. His dad, Maximillian Parker, was 12 when he arrived with his family in Salt Lake City in 1856.

Cassidy's childhood was spent on his family's ranch, but perhaps sensing that the Mormon life was not for him, he left home during his early teens. He supported himself by working on various ranches, and it was while at a dairy farm that he started to get drawn into the criminal world.

Mike Cassidy (real name John Tolliver McClammy) was a cowboy and rustler and soon-to-be mentor and friend of the young Parker. In fact, it's said that Robert dropped his Parker surname in favour of Cassidy in honour of his friend, adding it to his nickname of Butch. It is also said that the name change was due to a desire to not disrespect his family, as at the time he had a feeling his path would take a significant diversion from the Mormon lifestyle he had been brought up to believe in.

For a while Butch continued to move between ranches, living the life of a cowboy in Wyoming and Montana until he gravitated to Telluride, Colorado, in 1887. After striking up a friendship with race horse owner Matt Warner some time earlier, Cassidy robbed his first bank.

It was 24 June 1889, and Cassidy, Warner and the two McCarty brothers helped themselves to about $21,000 from the San Miguel Valley Bank. The crew didn't hang around for long, making their way to the Robbers Roost, an area of rough terrain in southeast Utah. The natural crags and canyons made this a popular hideout for outlaws, and in fact it was while Cassidy and his best friend Elzy Lay were lying low there that they formed the Wild Bunch.

When the heat had died down, Cassidy made his way to Wyoming, where he bought a ranch on the outskirts of Dubois. Although it's possible he did this in an attempt to earn an honest living, the fact he never actually made any money from it and that the location was just over from another outlaw hangout – the Hole in the Wall – suggests the ranch was a front for nefarious activities. There's also the fact he was arrested in 1894 for stealing horses and possibly running a protection racket among ranchers.

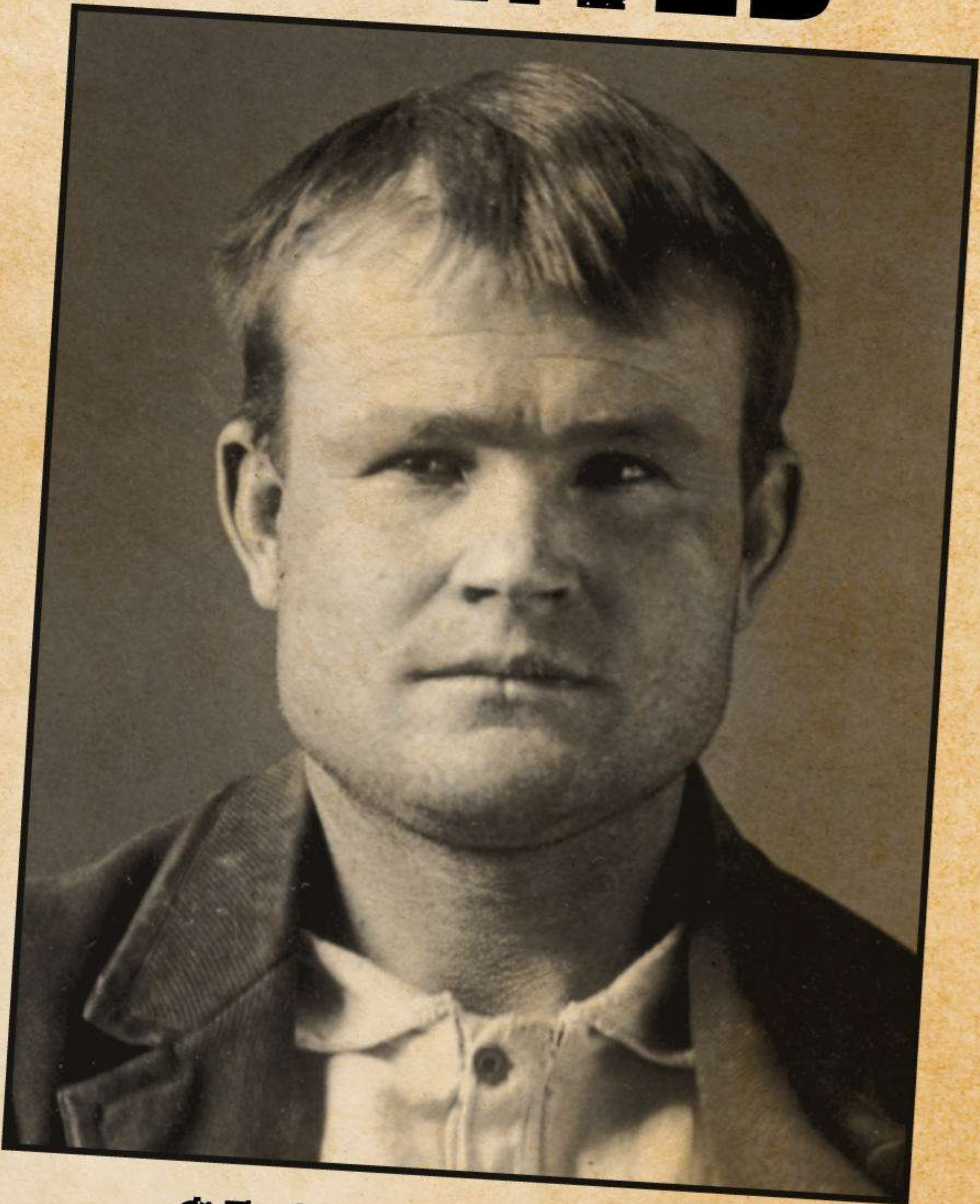
DEFINING MOMENT

RETURNING TO JAIL

One element that permeates all stories about Cassidy is his honesty – ironic given his profession. There is one tale that the night before he was due to go to jail he asked to spend the night as a free man, promising he would return the next day. The authorities agreed, Cassidy went off, and sure enough, he returned the next morning.

1894

WANTED



$5,000.00 REWARD

Cassidy served 18 months of a two-year sentence at the Wyoming State Prison, where, upon his release in 1896, he was pardoned by Governor William Alford Richards. While some may have taken the pardon as an opportunity to turn their life around and walk the straight and narrow, it did nothing to quash Cassidy's criminal tendencies. After his release from jail, Cassidy went on to form the Wild Bunch and forever seal his place in the Wild West hall of fame.

Perhaps fittingly for a bunch of thieves, the gang's name was literally taken from the Doolin-Dalton Gang (also known as the Wild Bunch) and consisted of a rag-tag crew of criminals. In addition to Cassidy and his best friend, William Ellsworth 'Elzy' Lay, the core gang consisted of Harvey 'Kid Curry' Logan, Ben Kilpatrick, Harry Tracy, Will 'News' Carver, Laura Bullion and George 'Flat Nose' Curry.

Other members would come and go, including Harry Alonzo Longabaugh (The Sundance Kid), who Cassidy recruited not long after leaving jail. But it was this core group who went on to perform the longest stretch of train and bank robberies in U.S. history.

They wasted no time. Cassidy, Lay, Logan and Bob Meeks targeted the bank in Montpelier, Idaho, on 13 August 1896, just months after his release. This first robbery set off a chain of others, taking the gang across South Dakota, Wyoming, Nevada and New Mexico. Their hauls ranged from a few thousand to $70,000 from a train outside Folsom, New Mexico.

Rather than encourage the ire of law-abiding citizens, the public were enamoured with their adventures, almost rooting for them to do well. Some of the reason for that could be because Cassidy had a bit of a Robin Hood persona, often sharing his loot with local people who were struggling to get by.

Although seen as the leader of the gang, Cassidy was always a little bit removed from his criminal colleagues. For a start, he took great pride in the fact he had never killed anyone in his criminal career. If being chased, his preferred defence was to shoot the horse carrying the person chasing him. However, this refusal to shed human blood did not extend to his criminal comrades, many of whom had no qualms about killing people – usually officers of the law – during close pursuits.

DEFINING MOMENT

RECRUITING ★ THE SUNDANCE ★ KID

Although they didn't have the full-on bromance portrayed in popular culture, by inviting the Sundance Kid to join the Wild Bunch, Cassidy unknowingly set in motion a relationship that would secure his place in Wild West history. It's impossible to think of Butch Cassidy without the Sundance Kid.

August 1896

Wilcox, Wyoming, became the location of the most famous and most destructive Wild Bunch robbery. On 2 June 1899, the gang robbed a Union Pacific Overland Flyer passenger train. There was a shootout with the law following the robbery that saw Kid Curry and George Curry kill Sheriff Joe Hazen. The gang got away with $30,000.

For Cassidy, the robbery had serious ramifications. The train was carrying gold to pay troops in the Spanish-American War, and by robbing it he was deemed to have committed an act of terrorism. From that robbery onwards, Cassidy and the Wild Bunch were targeted as national terrorists, with a reward of $18,000 if caught, dead or alive. Even though it's doubtful Cassidy robbed the train – one of the terms of his 1896 pardon was to not commit a crime in Wyoming, and Cassidy was a man of his word – it put the gang firmly in the sights of local law enforcement and the infamous Pinkerton Detective Agency. Yet still they robbed.

In fact, just a few weeks later on 11 July, the Bunch robbed a Colorado and Southern Railroad train near Folsom, New Mexico. Another shootout with law enforcement ensued, and this time Cassidy's best friend, Elzy Lay, killed sheriffs Edward Far and Henry Love. Lay was eventually caught and convicted for his crimes sentenced to life imprisonment for the double murders.

Things then went from bad to worse. From 1900 to 1901 various members of the Wild Bunch were either shot or captured. It was too much for Cassidy. He had gone from being seen as a cowboy Robin Hood to feeling suffocated by the law, so he fled to New York City with Sundance and his girlfriend, Etta Place, and then on to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in February 1901. They bought a ranch and settled down for a few years. But the peace was not to last.

The Pinkerton Detective Agency had been hired by Union Pacific after the Wilcox robbery to hunt down Cassidy, and it was very good at its job. Agent Frank Dimaio had learnt of Cassidy's location, and everything was in place to make an arrest. However,

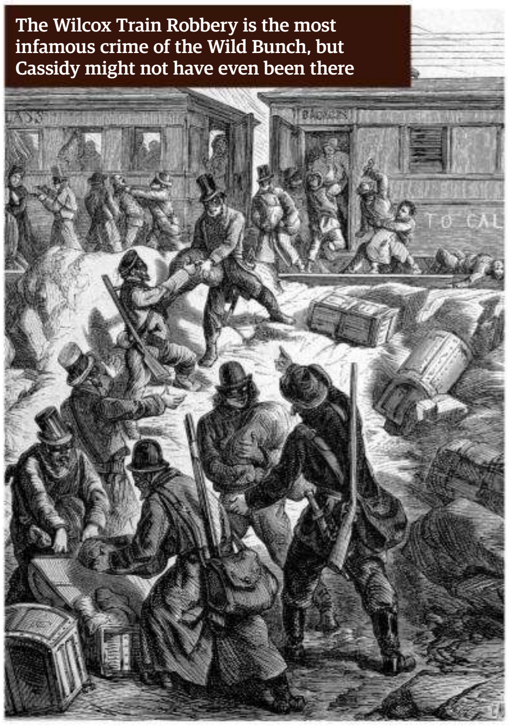
WHEN DID CASSIDY ACTUALLY DIE?

One of the most memorable scenes from the *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* film is the great shootout at the end, with both going down in a blaze of glory. But there have been many theories that Cassidy did not die in Bolivia, that he instead returned to America to live out the rest of his days in peace.

One of the most interesting theories came from a 1978 episode of the TV series *In Search Of…* that focused on an argument made by Wild West historian Charles Kelly in his 1938 book, *The Outlaw Trail: A History of Butch Cassidy and His Wild Bunch*. In it Kelly states that if Cassidy was alive he would have visited his father, and because he didn't do so he must have been dead. However, his view is contradicted.

In the episode, residents of Baggs, Wyoming, all state that Cassidy visited during 1924. There was also an interview with Cassidy's sister, Lula Parker Betenson, who says that not only did he visit his father, but he went on to live out his life in Washington. Betenson's 1975 book, *Butch Cassidy, My Brother*, also states that Cassidy told her he had got a friend to say one of the bodies in Bolivia was his so he could live a life free of pursuit. And before you dismiss the theory as fanciful, remember that there is no actual evidence either way.

A still from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. Did the infamous shootout actually happen?



The Wilcox Train Robbery is the most infamous crime of the Wild Bunch, but Cassidy might not have even been there

a local sheriff who had become friends with Cassidy tipped the trio off, so in May 1905 they made their escape north, ending up in Chile. Then for some reason they returned to Argentina, and not only did they return, they robbed a bank. Now being pursued for certain, they returned to Chile once again.

The strain of a life on the run proved too much for Etta Place. Sundance took her back to San Francisco while Cassidy adopted the alias James 'Santiago' Maxwell and worked at the Concordia Tin Mine. Sundance eventually joined him there. In 1907, the pair moved to Santa Cruz, apparently to lead the life of ranchers. But somehow it all went wrong.

On 3 November 1908, in Bolivia, a courier for the Aramavo Franke and Cia Silver Mine was transporting his company's payroll, worth around 15,000 Bolivian pesos. Two masked Americans attacked and robbed him before lodging in a small boarding house in a nearby town. But the owner was suspicious of the lodgers.

After alerting a nearby telegraph officer, on the night of 6 November, soldiers, the police chief, the local mayor and his officials all surrounded the boarding house, waiting to arrest the robbers.

Things didn't quite go to plan. The robbers started to shoot, killing one soldier and wounding another. The gunfire was returned, and before long an all-out gunfight had erupted. Then there was a scream, a shot and then another shot. Silence followed.

The authorities entered the boarding house the next morning and found two dead bodies. One had a bullet would in the forehead, while the other had one in the temple, in addition to various bullet wounds in the arms and legs. The police report assumed that one robber had shot his partner to spare him further agony before then killing himself.

The report also concluded that the two bodies were the men who had robbed the courier, but there were no other forms of identification, although it was assumed that the bodies belonged to Cassidy and Sundance. They were buried in a small cemetery in unmarked graves. It was an inauspicious end to an action-packed era of looting and shooting, and perhaps not one that suited the legend of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

However, death was by no means the end for this notorious duo. While the eponymous 1969 film is the most widely recognised tribute to them, its sequel, *Butch and Sundance: The Early Days*, released in 1979, is just one more example of many media portrayals of their famous escapades. Given Cassidy's allure, it's by no means the last.

The Sundance Kid and girlfriend Etta Place, taken while in New York before heading to Argentina

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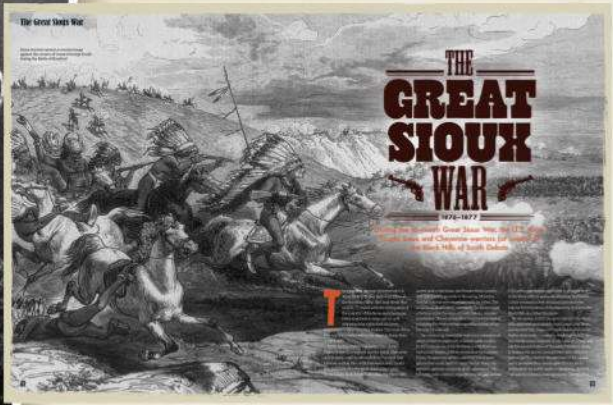

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1876-1877

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